

Scots TUC backs calls for referendum on constitution

BY KERRY GILL

PUBLIC pressure in Scotland for a referendum on the country's future constitution grew yesterday when the Scottish TUC overwhelmingly backed a motion calling on the government to organise one without delay. The Labour Party and the Liberal Democrats have already demanded a multi-option referendum organised by the government.

The Scottish National Party, whose leaders had been barred from addressing the STUC's annual conference in Perth, later made a similar demand but went further. It declared that if Mr Major were to refuse the call, Scots should hold their own referendum no later than the beginning of next year.

The two demands followed a day in which the conference was dominated by calls for the constitutional issue to be resolved at the ballot box. Charles Gray, leader of Strathclyde council, said years of political unrest and civil disobedience would follow if the government ignored the aspirations of the Scottish public.

Local authorities and the public would not tolerate further edicts from Westminster which could lead to the loss of thousands of jobs, said Mr Gray. Scots would not remain passive until the turn of the century and demonstrations.

marches and vigils could follow if they were not allowed to govern themselves.

Referring to the possibility of further financial cutbacks in local government, he said he would not acquiesce in this process again.

Later, also in Perth, SNP leader Alex Salmond offered an olive branch to the STUC following its decision not to allow him to address the conference. He said he would invite Campbell Christie, STUC general secretary, to join him in talks over a referendum.

"The SNP is willing to talk to all those who are genuine about holding a multi-option referendum. I therefore intend to ignore the snub from union barons and sectarian Labour politicians and continue to seek common ground," he said.

He believed the chance of Mr Major approving a referendum was "infinitesimal" and that this issue should be got out of the way so that a committee of eminent Scots could organise a popular referendum.

Most STUC speakers and delegates said they were disappointed that the organisation's general council had refused to invite Mr Salmond to address the conference. Many of them called for unity among all parties seeking constitutional change.

Bob McCreadie, vice-chairman of the Scottish Liberal Democrats, said the campaign for a referendum would achieve nothing if the groups backing it were divided. But the government would achieve nothing by trying to tinker with the constitution in an attempt to buy off the campaign for home rule. More meetings of the Scottish Grand Committee or the re-formation of a Scottish Select Committee were toothless concepts, he said.

The STUC also agreed yesterday to campaign against what were described as further Tory attacks on the National Health Service, education, councils, industry and public services, and to protect the trade union movement.

Gould canvasses Smith faithful

BY KERRY GILL

BRYAN Gould cut a rather lonely figure yesterday at the annual conference of the Scottish TUC. He spent almost three hours sitting by himself in the gallery of Perth city hall listening to the debate on the future constitution of Scotland.

Later, after witnessing the fervour of delegates demanding a referendum on the issue, Mr Gould disclosed that he had come to favour an all-British constitutional convention that would address all aspects of government, including the possible eventual introduction of regional government throughout Britain.

Mr Gould spent Monday night canvassing support among Scottish trades unionists, many of whom are probably natural supporters of the Argyle-born John Smith. Mr Gould insisted, though, that he was not facing defeat in his battle for the Labour party leadership. "Not a single constituency party has yet met, let alone voted. No trade union has yet decided how to deal with consulting the ballot of their members. It is very early stages," he said.

His campaign is fuelled by



Gould: 'Campaign is in very good shape'

an energetic team with plenty of funds and it will take him to every corner of the UK. "We are in very good shape," he said.

There was no rush from delegates for Mr Gould's ear, although he did meet Roger Lyons, of the Manufacturing, Science and Finance union before catching his train back to London. It is clear that Scotland will not be fertile ground for his leadership campaign: no one in Scotland is more popular than John Smith within Labour's team.



Chilly reception: a Buddhist monk feels the cold on the journey to Holy Island, an outcrop off the west coast of Scotland that has become home to an inter-denominational centre for prayer and contemplation. Monks

from the Samye Ling Tibetan organisation held a service of dedication yesterday on their windswept acquisition where St Molitor, the Irish missionary of the sixth century, once lived. Vestiges of the saint's era

include his cave and the well he used for water. The island, off Arisaig in the Firth of Clyde, was sold to the Buddhists by Catherine Morris, who lived there for eight years with her husband, a farmer.

Rise in Easter sales fuels hope of economic revival

BY PETER VICTOR

RETAILERS yesterday reported a rise in spending over Easter, strengthening the growing confidence that the economy is on the mend. Some stores estimated takings to be as much as 50 per cent up on the previous Easter, with more sales of items such as furniture and household electrical goods.

Texas, the DIY company, said that Easter sales for some products were 25 per cent up on last year, while House of Fraser, which operates 56 department stores in

the UK, including Harrods, reported "very encouraging" trading.

Habitat reported an increase in household furniture sales "in line with the general mood in the high street".

Some retailers were more cautious. Perhaps fearing to tempt fate by declaring a rise in sales, they said that they would wait to see what happens in the next few months.

Sears Group, which owns Selfridges and the Wallace Warehouse, and Miss Selfridge clothing stores, said that sales this Easter were up, but would not put a figure on the increase. "People are feeling a bit more confident with the election out of the way," a spokeswoman said. "But with statistics being published like 31 per cent of small businesses going under, in the South East people still have a fear of losing their job."

Sears's housebuilding subsidiary, has had an increase in new enquiries in the past week. The spokeswoman said: "That could mean good news for the high street, in time." Sears is, however, still looking to diversify itself of its property interests. Consumers remain cautious, the spokeswoman said. "We haven't seen the huge jump we expected after the election," she added.

This caution was echoed by Stanley Kalra, chairman of Dixons, despite sales greatly increased from last Easter. "There is a substantially more interest in shops and stores and that is a promising sign, but we mustn't take the temperature too often," he said.

The Confederation of British Industry said last week that sales were expected to pick up in the wake of the election.



Pike and drums: two of four stamps unveiled by the Post Office today to mark the 350th anniversary of the Battle of Edgehill, the first major conflict in the English Civil War. The issue was designed by Jeremy Sancha.

Violent advert is a warning shot

BY MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

A VIOLENT commercial about the dangers of broadcasting violent television programmes when children may be watching is to be broadcast this week on peak-time independent television to give viewers a clearer picture about where to complain if a programme, or a commercial, causes offence.

The commercial is one of three by the Independent Television Commission (ITC), which is using, free of charge, £500,000 worth of promotional airtime on ITV, Channel 4 and satellite channels in the next three weeks to raise awareness of its regulatory role over them.

It shows a terrified boy sitting on a couch watching as a man is murdered in front of him. The scene then switches to the television screen as the killer points a gun at the boy.

David Glenister, the commission's chief executive, said that it had decided, after "considerable discussion", that the scene would best illustrate the hazards of violence on television before the 9pm family viewing watershed. The commercial itself will be shown after 9pm.

The commercial will probably increase complaints about violence on television made to the ITC, and to the

Broadcasting Standards Council. Asked whether the council could uphold a complaint against the ITC, a spokeswoman said: "I don't think so... Scenes of that kind have been seen on TV after 9pm."

Last night, the ITC's first commercial, on bias, had its debut on ITV at 8.30pm. The third advertisement looks at misleading advertising.

Only one in ten viewers has heard of the ITC. Over a quarter think the Independent Broadcasting Authority, replaced 15 months ago by the ITC, is still the regulator.

□ Sunrise Television, which displaced TV-am in last autumn's blind-bid ITV auction, yesterday changed its name to GMTV after a dispute with British Sky Broadcasting, which calls its breakfast news programme Sunrise. GMTV's programme is now to be called Good Morning.

□ The BBC, traditional winner in the election night battle for viewers, maintained a two-to-one lead over ITN for much of the night, according to the British Audience Research Bureau. The BBC Election '92 programme had an average audience for the first four hours of 6.7 million, beating ITN's 3.8 million.

Spain to release foreign prisoners

Hundreds of convicted British prisoners in Spain may be freed soon as part of a drive to ease prison overcrowding (Richard Ford writes).

Up to 3,000 foreign inmates serving sentences of less than six years will be released over the next few months, Antoni Asuncion, Spain's secretary-general for prison affairs, announced. On release they would be deported as undesirable. The Foreign Office estimates that there are 455 British nationals in Spanish prisons, almost 60 per cent of whom are being held for drugs-related offences. The British government has been taken by surprise at the announcement and last night had no details of how many people would be released or how they would be returned.

Keith Best, director of Prisoners Abroad, which helps people jailed in foreign countries, said that most of the complaints against the Spanish criminal justice system concerned the length of time before a person stood trial and conditions in Spanish jails.

Patient dies in ambulance crash

A seriously injured pedestrian who survived a road accident died when the ambulance rushing him to hospital under police escort with its siren wailing and blue light flashing, collided with a car.

James Twilven, 77, was receiving emergency treatment in the ambulance for head and leg injuries. The driver of the ambulance and a woman attendant as well as the driver and passenger of the car were injured in the crash at a road junction at Ashford, Surrey. Other ambulances went to the scene to take the injured to hospital.

Mercury fund

The sum raised from the Freddie Mercury memorial concert will not be known for two or three weeks, organisers said. All funds from donations, ticket sales and broadcast revenues will go into a trust to be administered by the three surviving members of the Queen rock group and will be distributed to AIDS charities. Organisers say the money will be used primarily for care and education.

Girl, 5, attacked

A sex attacker who assaulted a five-year-old girl as she slept in her own bed was being hunted yesterday. He walked into her family's home at Histon, Cambs, through an unlocked back door. The girl was said to be deeply shocked, but not physically injured.

Democracy dial-in gets few takers

BY LIN JENKINS

POLL: tax payers who took part in a democracy dial-in have voted to enhance the environment. The opportunity provided by South Norfolk District Council to influence the way funds are allocated brought a tiny response. Just 816 of 103,000 residents voted for one of five options on how to spend £5,000 of the council's budget.

The planting of trees won with 603 telephone votes. The provision of wheelchairs for the elderly and infirm drew 140 votes, 28 wanted new benches and tables at council-owned beauty spots, 24 favoured a concert and 21 voted for food hygiene information packs to be distributed to restaurants.

The council will now be drawing up proposals on how to spend the money on tree planting. "As a lesson in people trying their hand in getting to know how their local council works it was a success."



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Benny Hill's £10m fortune likely to go to his biggest fan

BY BILL FROST

BENNY Hill's most fervent female fan could be the major beneficiary of his £10 million fortune. The comedian said last year that he would leave the bulk of his money to "two very special, lovely ladies" suffering from cerebral palsy who had followed his career over four decades. One of them, Jeanette Warner from Leicester, has since died.

Tributes pour in for 'comic master'

BENNY Hill was accused by some feminists of sexism and was dropped by Thames Television. But he found legions of new fans when his shows were sold to the United States. The reclusive American singer Michael Jackson yesterday added his tribute to the comedian's work. "I was fortunate in meeting Benny Hill on my recent trip to London," he said. "The world is suffering a great loss of a great talent."

Bob Hope, the comedian, said: "I am saddened by his passing. Benny Hill was a master comic and one of the funniest men to grace the stage. He made us all laugh and all the laughs were big."

Paradoxically, Benny Hill's seaside postcard humour became more popular abroad than at home. In a recent interview, the comedian said: "The biggest kick I get is being approached by people in France, Spain, Italy or Greece who love what I do."

Yesterday, Don Taylor, who introduced Benny Hill to American television, said: "He was a genius, a perfectionist, and a very nice man. He appealed to audiences all over the world because he spoke the simple language of comedy with total expertise."

Henry McGee, the entertainer's leading television partner and stooge, was told of Mr Hill's death as he arrived at Heathrow from Cairo yesterday. He said: "It is devastating news. He was one of the great comedians of our age. He could make people laugh from America to the Far East."

Bob Todd, the wild-eyed performer who became one of the comedian's favourite foils, said: "I cannot get used to the idea that he is gone. I have been with him for so long. It is a terrible gap. We knew one another for 16 years. We were great friends. I feel my whole life has been Benny. He was an absolute joy to work with. In all the time I was with him, never on the set was there a cross word from him for anyone."

Sue Upton, a close friend who accompanied Mr Hill to the West End musical *Me and My Girl* less than a week ago, said: "We had a lovely day out in town, but I thought he did not look that well even then. He said he was still feeling a bit up and down and was trying to take things slowly."

Miss Upton, a former "Hill's Angel", thought that the comedian would have company even more than usual after his illness. "He shunned anybody's help. The last thing he ever wanted was to be a burden," she said.

close," she said. "He used to give me cuddles and kisses and we joked about getting married. He called me Kitten because I was nice and soft and he was my Teddy Bear because he was nice and cuddly."

A post-mortem examination yesterday disclosed that the comedian had died of a heart attack over the Easter holiday weekend. Police, alerted by anxious neighbours, found Mr Hill on Monday evening after they broke into his flat at Teddington, southwest London.

Dr Ravindra Fernando, who carried out the examination, thought that the comedian had been dead for about two days. The coroner's office at Kingston hospital, southwest London, where the examination was conducted, gave the cause of death as coronary thrombosis. In February, Mr Hill was treated for heart illness at the Brompton hospital, central London.

Miss King said that she had spoken to Mr Hill a couple of weeks ago when she broke her femur. He had replied: "Darling, you have broken your femur bone and I have got a bad heart. We are a pair, aren't we?" Miss King became an ardent follower 42



King followed Hill's career for 42 years

years ago when Mr Hill was performing at the Spa Pavilion, Felixstowe, said Brenda Garrison, the nursing home warden who looks after her. The comedian visited her every summer after that, taking her for walks and lunch at a country club.

"He used to come for about a week at the end of June or July. He would never stay in a hotel. He was happy to be in the guest room here. It was quiet and nobody bothered him. He always took her out and pushed her along the front in her wheelchair," Ms Garrison said.

"Phoebe is very upset. She has lost a very dear friend. They met first when she asked for Benny's autograph. It is a remarkable story of friendship and devotion between two people from completely different worlds brought together by chance. Phoebe never took the prospect of an inheritance very seriously," she added.

Ms Garrison spoke to the comedian on the telephone several weeks ago to tell him Miss King had been admitted to hospital. "He was obviously very ill and he sounded like a very frightened man. He told me he could not walk ten steps without someone to help him," she said.

Nell Warner, aged 80, yesterday described her late daughter as Mr Hill's biggest fan. They met in the sixties when she saw his show at Great Yarmouth. "They were very great friends. His agent said Benny was devastated when he heard she was dead," she said yesterday.

Mrs Warner told how Jeanette read newspaper reports last year of the comedian's plans to leave her a fortune in his will. "I don't want Benny's money. I just want Benny," she said at the time.

Bernard Richards, page 10
Diary, page 10
Obituary, page 13



Closing chapter: Mr Pringle is brought out on a chair stretcher and, below, Leanne Rees is carried screaming from the siege house



Police shot ends siege

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A DURHAM police marksman yesterday shot and wounded a gunman who had kept police at bay for 47 hours as he held his woman friend hostage in a terraced Darlington house.

Minutes after the police opened fire Keith Pringle, 24, was carried out of the house heavily bloodstained. Last night police said that Mr Pringle had been hit in the face with a single shot and taken to Middlesbrough general hospital. The wound did not threaten his life.

At first police denied that they had opened fire and then later a spokesman for Durham police said Mr Pringle had been hit by a shot fired by one of the marksman positioned in a house opposite.

Eddie Marchant, assistant chief constable of Durham, said the marksman

had feared for the life of the hostage and opened fire, wounding Mr Pringle in the neck. He said the Police Complaints Authority had accepted an invitation to supervise an investigation into the shooting which will be carried out by David Mellish, an assistant chief constable with Northumbria police.

The armed siege at a council house in Lyonette Road, Darlington, ended just after 1pm yesterday after a single shot was heard. Leanne Rees, 21, the mother of two children by Mr Pringle, could be heard screaming frantically.

Armed police stormed the building from the front and side, with three running into the house. One policeman came out carrying Leanne, screaming hysterically, under his arm. Seconds later an ambulance arrived and two paramedics went into the house. An armed came out carrying a shotgun and Mr Pringle was brought out by police on a chair stretcher.

The siege started when Leanne's mother Pauline, 43, was shot as she left the house on Sunday afternoon. Earlier Pringle's close friend, Jason Ward, 20, of Neasham Road, Darlington, was shot on the outskirts of the town. Mrs Rees, who had facial wounds, was said to be in a satisfactory condition in Middlesbrough general hospital, where Mr Ward was said to be "comfortable".

At one stage yesterday police said that a shot was fired into a ceiling in the house at about 1.30am but negotiators were satisfied it was an accident and that Miss Rees was unharmed.

Cost of selling a house rises in spite of property slump

BY RACHEL KELLY, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

THE cost of selling a house has gone up 7.5 per cent in spite of the collapse in property prices, according to figures released yesterday by the Woolwich building society.

However, the suspension of stamp duty meant a temporary fall of 50 per cent in the cost of buying properties worth up to £250,000 in England and Wales, and 39 per cent in Scotland compared with a year earlier. Stamp

duty, levied at 1 per cent of house value, accounts for about half the cost of buying.

However, the Woolwich stresses that these falls are likely to last only until August 19 when stamp duty will be reimposed on properties over £30,000. The underlying cost of buying is up by 2.9 per cent reflecting the increased costs of structural surveys and solicitors' fees.

A Woolwich spokesman

said: "Now is the time to buy, and definitely before August, to take advantage of these falls in the cost of buying."

The savings on buying would offset higher selling costs. The costs of selling reflect a 7.5 per cent increase in estate agency fees and a 6.7 per cent increase in solicitors' fees.

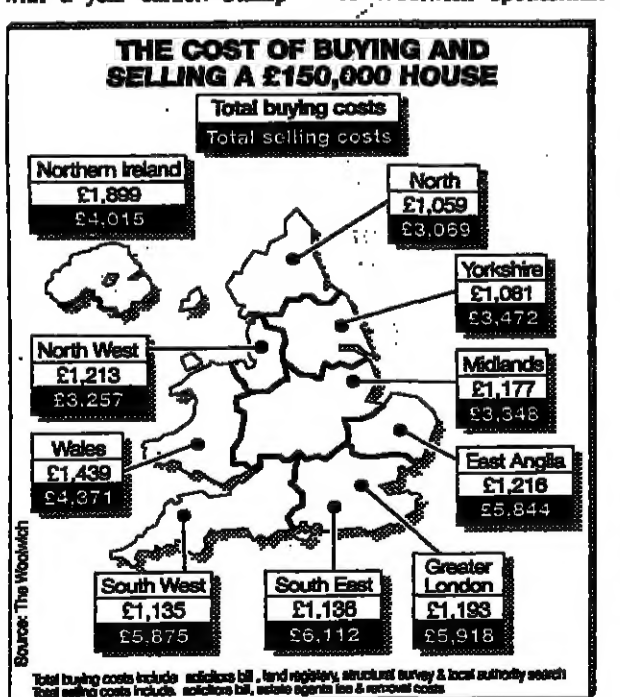
"There are far fewer house sales going through for both estate agents and solicitors, but they have to try and remain profitable. They therefore put their costs up," the Woolwich spokesman said.

On the sale of a £150,000 house last year, an estate agent without sole rights would have charged on average £4,707 in Greater London. Now the figure is £4,953.

The survey shows that selling costs are much higher in the South. They are twice as expensive in the South-East on average as in the North-East. Selling a £150,000 house in East Anglia, for example, would cost £5,844, compared with £3,069 to sell a similar property in the North-East.

The Woolwich forecasts that the cost of moving will rise dramatically after the re-introduction of stamp duty, with selling costs expensive as long as the property market remains depressed.

The survey was based on research in 42 towns around the country during January.



VIEW BY APPOINTMENT
Homes, L&T section, page 7

Time to tackle the memo mountain

BY JOE JOSEPH

IN A SCALE between "ending all human misery" at one end and "ironing all socks" at the other, "clearing your desk" may rank near the sock-ironing end of world priorities. But because today is International Clear Your Desk Day, 250,000 British office workers will apparently make time to throw out ancient memos and faxes and to strip their desktops back to their shiny leatherette surfaces in the belief that less paperwork will improve efficiency.

Ending cluttered desktop misery is a lucrative passion of Declan Treacy, who heads The Clear Your Desk! Organisation and makes a fancy £800-a-day living out of visiting companies and telling them how to "manage their paperwork".

Mr Treacy says we spend 45 minutes a day just looking for things on and

around our desks, and that each piece of paper will distract us up to five times a day. He calculates that, worldwide, computer printers churn out 2.5 million pieces of paper every minute and photocopies copy 60 million sheets of paper an hour.

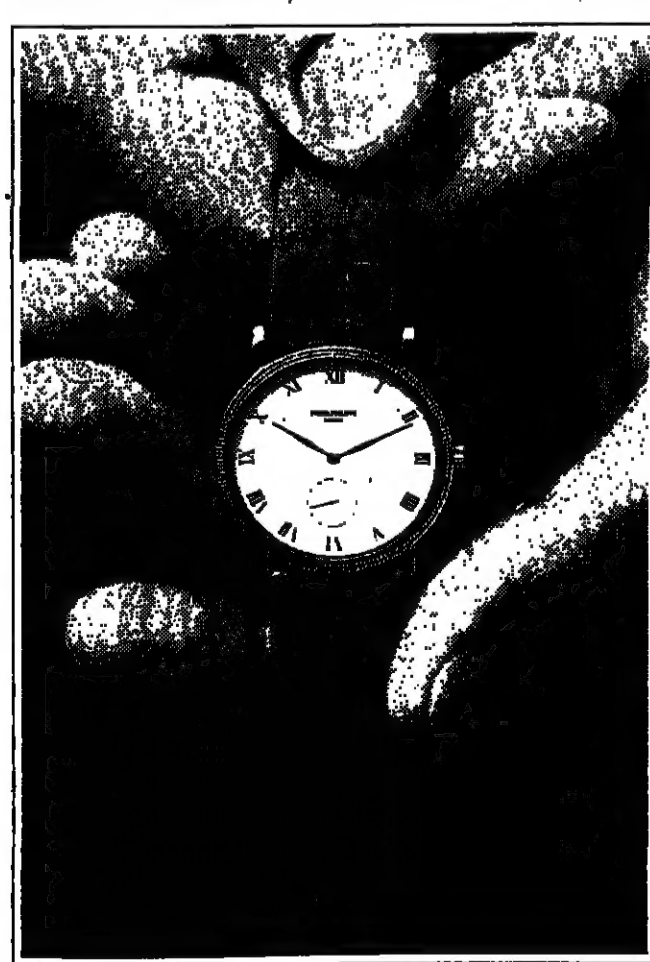
Cluttered desks apparently lead to low productivity, lost information, missed opportunities, unwanted distractions, low morale and high stress. Mr Treacy cites boardroom bigwigs who work with clean desks, such as Sir John Harvey-Jones, the former head of ICI, Sir Allan Shepherd, the chief executive of Grand Metropolitan, and Richard Branson of Virgin Airlines. But then it is easier for them to stay tidy. Top people have neat desks for the same reason that the Queen doesn't have piles of dirty clothes around her bedroom: they all have little people to do the clearing up for them.

Mr Treacy also seems to miss the point when he says: "There are only four things you can do with a piece of paper that lands on your desk — act on it, pass on it, file it or bin it."

Important memos, press releases, and letters from upset readers and aggrieved customers all serve a useful secondary office life as pads for noting down restaurant telephone numbers, as doodling paper, and as make-do cloths to wipe up the goo that oozes out of toasted cheese and tomato sandwiches.

Nor is a clean desk everything. Anita Roddick of Bodyshop keeps a desk clear of paper but it is sometimes covered with nightingale droppings from the Amazon, or some ingredient from her latest lip gloss. Jeffrey Archer, the novelist, keeps nothing but six pencils, six pens, a rubber, a pencil sharpener and a tiny clock on his desk.

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BY RICHARD FORD AND CRAIG SETON

Pauline Allen, for the defense, said that Ogle was prepared to leave the island immediately. She had little money and the maximum

Sergeant Newman's funeral is not expected for several weeks as his body is being retained during the police investigation. The defence ministry said yesterday that the body was expected to be retained for up to a month.



Rejecting the idea that Mr Major is his own man, Mrs Thatcher points to her own achievements over eleven and a half years which fundamentally changed Britain, "ridding it of the debilitating, negative aspects of socialism". Pointing to the unique character of the British, and thereby including a jibe at those who would group us as Europeans she

In a paragraph which hints at her own hurt at being attacked for her attitude to public services, she reasserts the need to generate wealth to increase the resources available for the health service and gives a sharp re-

She argues that many new MPs share her orthodox views on finance and says that the greatest danger to government in Britain "is having too many elected re-

First salvo, page 1
Diary, page 10
Leading article, page 11

She is claiming sex discrimination. Her The central London tribunal was told that

The group's directors became disenchanted with the performance of the three-person office when it came bottom of their international sales league table. Ricky Ang, a director, wrote to the pair after their affair had been disclosed saying: "The sales performance of your office was the worst of all the sales teams for the year 1989/90. I am sure that your actions have played a part in these performance figures."

VII. CONCLUSIONS

Teachers seek more help to curb pupil violence

By MATTHEW D'ANCONA, EDUCATION REPORTER

DISRUPTIVE pupils pose a threat to educational standards and classroom harmony that the government and local authorities have yet to address properly, Britain's second largest teaching union claimed yesterday.

The National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers voted unanimously at its conference in Scarborough to condemn the lack of support offered to schools facing disruptive behaviour. Delegates demanded that teachers be consulted before excluded pupils were readmitted to ordinary lessons. Members of the union at Bishop Llandaff School, Cardiff, went on strike for eight days last year after the readmission of three boys accused of sexual assault.

Jim West, of the Solent, proposing the motion, said that stress-related illness was abnormally common among teachers and many faced ugly disciplinary crises every day at work. "Too often the education of the majority of our pupils is hindered by the disruptive behaviour of the few," he said.

Steve Illingworth, from Bradford, said that many parents were too indulgent towards children who needed to be taken in hand. "We find John Patten, our education secretary, asking us to remind pupils that God doesn't like them to be naughty," he said. "Somehow I don't think that's going to work."

The motion reflects disquiet in the teaching profession at the increase in violence in the classroom. The Elton Report, commissioned by the government in 1988, found that almost 2 per cent of teachers faced acts of physical aggression each week. The number of places in local authority special schools and off-site units is dwindling, however, forcing many

schools to readmit pupils or pay for home tuition.

Nigel de Gruchy, the union's general secretary, said that making parents liable for pupils' behaviour would solve nothing. Local authorities had to recognise their responsibility to schools and budget accordingly.

While the National Union of Teachers has tried this week with a radicalism reminiscent of the mid 1980s, the moderate NAS/UWT is cultivating an image of studied pragmatism at its conference.

The union is faced with a new educational landscape of delegated budgets, opt-out schools and league tables, which it dislikes but is learning to accept. Calls for reform of government policy are more likely than demands for outright abolition, and the proposals for a national boycott of teachers' assessment and industrial action over classroom size face an uphill struggle.

Yesterday the executive easily fended off an amendment calling for the abolition of local management of schools which gives each school responsibility for its wages and costs. Instead a more pragmatic motion was passed stressing the continuing role of local authorities and calling for teachers' pay to be funded on the basis of actual costs rather than average salaries.

Delegates also voted yesterday against the publication of exam results in league table form as is now required by the Parents Charter. The union appeared, however, to give implicit approval to league tables which took proper account of social and economic factors and measured the "value added" to pupils' performance by each school.

Pay demand, page 1

New DPP to fight for court reform

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE new Director of Public Prosecutions started work yesterday, vowing to continue to press for lawyers in the Crown Prosecution Service to be given rights of audience in the higher courts.

Barbara Mills, QC, took up her £77,000-a-year appointment as the first woman DPP in succession to Sir Allan Green, QC, who resigned last year after kerfuffle over alleged sexual advances.

Mrs Mills, aged 51, formerly director of the Serious Fraud Office, said that her only disappointment was the decision last week by a government advisory committee that the CPS, which she heads, should not be allowed to present cases in higher courts. She said: "I am disappointed about the advice given by Lord Griffiths's committee, but I will continue to fight vigorously for rights of audience for CPS lawyers."

The Bar and senior members of the judiciary have fought the CPS's attempt to gain rights of audience in cases lasting up to three



In camera: Barbara Mills, QC, meeting the press on her first day as Director of Public Prosecutions

days. The 16-member committee of lawyers and laymen said that granting limited rights of audience to the service, which employs 2,000 lawyers, could lead to a state monopoly of prosecution advocacy. The Bar's opponents

said that it is trying to stop competition, particularly in criminal cases. Mrs Mills said that she had lost her rights of audience by becoming employed by the government.

Mrs Mills, a graduate of

Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, acted for the prosecution against Michael Fagan for his intrusion into the Queen's bedroom, and defended Winston Silcott at his trial and his appeal against conviction for the murder

of PC Keith Blakelock. Her husband, John, is a Labour member of Camden council, in north London. They have four children.

John Mortimer, L&T section, page 1

Gunman abducts children on beach

By RONALD FAUX

A MASKED man abducted two children and tied them up at gunpoint, 100 yards from where they were having a family picnic.

The girl aged 11 and her brother aged six were playing in rock pools on the beach at Birkdale, near Southport, Merseyside, on Monday when the man grabbed them from behind. He pointed a pistol at them and forced them to move away from the crowds into a secluded area of sand dunes.

The boy was forced to lie face down on the ground, his hands were tied behind his back and he was blindfolded with a balaclava. His sister was blindfolded with a handkerchief and taken further into the dunes.

The boy wriggled free and ran screaming to his parents who were searching for the children. The father shouted his daughter's name and she appeared over the dunes 200 yards away.

The father chased the attacker but he fled towards the Royal Birkdale golf course and disappeared. Police believe he was carrying an imitation handgun.

Editor is rebuked over show

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

ANDREW Neil, editor of *The Sunday Times*, violated guidelines on impartiality by devoting almost all of his two-hour programme on LBC, a London radio station, to a story in his newspaper, the Radio Authority has ruled.

A listener who complained about a February 2 broadcast of *The Andrew Neil Show* said that it was wrong for an editor of a national newspaper "broadly" supporting the government to conduct a current affairs programme that was supposed to be impartial. The article "Kinnock and the Kremlin" had damaged the Labour party, the complainant said.

The authority said the story was debated in a balanced way but it was wrong for Mr Neil to chair a discussion about an issue in which he had played a key role.

Abattoirs take to the road

By MICHAEL HORNBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

ABATTOIRS on wheels could soon improve animal welfare by reducing the need for long and stressful journeys to distant slaughterhouses. The mobile units would visit farms and kill animals on the spot.

The agriculture ministry has approved a design submitted by the Humane Slaughter Association, which plans to have them manufactured for £120,000 each by an engineering company in Norwich.

Miriam Parker, the association's assistant director, said that the units would be staffed and equipped to kill, dress and chill up to ten cattle or 20 pigs or 50 sheep a day. They are expected to be particularly useful for farmers who are raising wild boar and deer in Wales.

Short wins in 28 moves to take lead

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

NIGEL Short beat Anatoly Karpov on Monday night in one of the shortest games the former world champion has lost. The victory puts Short, Britain's highest ranked grandmaster, one point ahead in the world chess championship semi-final in Linares, Spain. There was no play last night.

Short has been placing his Russian rival under increasing pressure as the ten-game match has progressed. In spite of losing the first game, the run of recent play has been entirely in Short's favour.

In the sixth game Short, playing white, confused Karpov with an unusual vari-

ation of the Ruy Lopez opening. After 25 moves, Short was exerting substantial pressure but the capture of an innocent pawn turned out to be catastrophic for Karpov.

Short's devastating reply, moving a rook one square to the side where it faced the black queen, was lethal. The black queen had nowhere to run because of a vulnerable rook. Shattered by his error, Karpov gave up his queen and he resigned on move 28.

Short had earlier won the adjourned fourth game after 76 moves and had settled for a draw in the fifth game. Short now leads the match by 3½ to 2½ points.

The moves in Game 6, with Short playing white, were:

White	Black	White	Black
1 e4	e5	15 a3	a4
2 Nf3	Nc6	16 Nd2	Ba5
3 Bb5	a6	17 c4	Bxd2
4 Bx6	Nf6	18 Bxc4	Qc7
5 c4	Bc7	19 Rf1	Qd8
6 Qd2	b5	20 Qd1	c3
7 Bb3	Q-0	21 bxc3	dxc3
8 Qc2	b4	22 Bxc3	b4
9 c3	c4	23 Ra2	Nac2
10 Nbd2	Bc5	24 Nxc2	Rf4
11 Bc2	Bb6	25 Bb4	Qxc2
12 Bb3	Bg4	26 Bc2	Qxc2
13 Bb3	Bc5	27 Bxd2	Nxc4
14 Qc2	a5	28 Rg2	

Black resigned

Game 6 after 26 moves

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US awaits landmark ruling on abortion

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON

THE US Supreme Court starts to hear a case today that could decide whether women throughout the United States still have a constitutional right to abortion.

In its review of a Pennsylvania law — which imposes a 24-hour waiting period on women who want a termination and requires a husband to be notified of a pregnancy — the court is likely to make a ruling that will grant states a virtual free hand in framing legislation on abortion.

Louisiana and Utah have already passed laws banning abortion, and several other states have enacted legislation restricting access to abortion. Eleven states are poised to pass bans, depending on the Supreme Court's decision. Pro-choice advocates and opponents of abortion are agreed that the conservative-dominated Supreme Court will use the opportunity to destroy the legal framework for abortion established by the court's 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling.

The Bush administration has put its weight behind the Pennsylvania law. "In our view, a state's interest in protecting fetal life throughout pregnancy outweighs a woman's liberty interest in abortion," the administration's Solicitor General has informed the court.

Kathryn Kolbert, a lawyer for the American Civil Liberties Union who will present the case against the Pennsylvania law on behalf of several abortion rights groups, said she was pessimistic about her chances. "I can count votes as well as anyone."

The Pennsylvania law requires doctors to advise any woman seeking a termination about alternatives to abortion. Most of this advice must be given 24 hours before an abortion. Under the law, a

girl aged under 18 needs the permission of a parent or judge before having an abortion, and a married woman must notify her husband about her intention.

Anti-abortion groups have increasingly tried to switch the debate about abortion to the need for measures requiring parental consent before minors can have terminations. Opinion polls have shown that even people who favour access to abortion support the idea of parental consent. The anti-abortion groups have also used the parental consent argument to break down established legal principles supportive of abortions.

As the Supreme Court has become steadily more conservative, the justices have been lowering the threshold for state restrictions on abortion. In 1986, the court was still paying homage to the 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling, stating that "a woman's right to make that choice is fundamental". But in a Missouri case it reviewed in 1989, the court decided that states could impose restrictions as long as an "undue burden" defined vaguely, was not placed on a woman's right to abortion. The effect of the ruling was to allow Missouri to restrict the use of public money to medical personnel and facilities for abortions.

If the court re-affirms its "undue burden" principle, then the Pennsylvania law will survive, but sweeping bans as enacted in Louisiana and Utah will fall. However, if the justices decide that there must simply be a rational basis for any restriction, then the constitutional protection provided by the 1973 ruling will collapse. Four of the nine Supreme Court justices have indicated that they support a hands-off approach.

Militant Christians stir up passions

BY JAMIE DETTMER

IN FARGO, North Dakota, Dr Alan Lindemann has decided not to perform abortions after fellow doctors told him that his family would be named if he continued.

This is just one example of the intolerance sweeping America over the abortion issue. Activists on both sides see themselves as heirs to the civil rights movement of the 1960s and, as then, exhibit an astonishing level of passion and conviction.

In Buffalo, New York state, on Monday a two-week campaign started which is designed to force the closure of the town's three abortion clinics. It is mounted by Operation Rescue, a fundamentalist group, and could lead to violence. In Wichita, Kansas,

last year, Operation Rescue's activities led to 3,000 arrests. The Lambs of Christ is one of the most feared of the direct action groups. They have made North Dakota into a virtual abortion-free state. Only two doctors are prepared to perform abortions and that is because both of them live outside the state and fly in to staff the Woman's Health Centre in Fargo.

Susan Wickland, one of the doctors, and her family are protected by a security firm and her children suffer harassment on the street.

In the end, whether a woman can get an abortion could well depend as much on these groups as on the Supreme Court or a state legislature.



Locked in debate: supporters and opponents of the death penalty arguing outside the main gate of San Quentin prison. About 2,000 opponents had protested outside the jail, but by the time Harris was executed yesterday, only about 30 protesters were keeping vigil

Death row frenzy seizes America as media circus overrides moral debate

Obsession with the death penalty in America cannot be described simply as a search for order amid chaos or as fear of a rising crime rate, William Cash reports from San Quentin

ELEVENTH-HOUR and ultimately unsuccessful appeals to save the life of Robert Alton Harris, convicted of killing two teenagers in 1978, merely heightened the morbid public and media obsession with his fate that so gripped the West Coast of the United States during the Easter holiday weekend.

The frenzy surrounding Harris, who finally died in the gas chamber yesterday, will come as no surprise to 19th-century or 18th-century social historians. The scale of the media circus that has descended on the little seaside village of San Quentin, over which the prison looms like a giant concrete sand castle, raises inevitable speculation about whether such interest has more to do with popular entertainment than public justice.

Executions were traditionally held on public holidays, perhaps in the belief that everyone was like Boswell, who confided to his *London Journal* that he had "a horrid eagerness to be there". Moving executions to the inside of prisons coincided with the rise of the mass media, which has ensured that they remain a public spectacle. For the 48 hours leading up to Harris's execution, the California radio waves were dominated by phone-in shows discussing methods of execution, with recollections of how public hangings were a weekly Friday morning event in San Francisco in the early part of the century.

In *The Executioner's Song*, Norman Mailer's exhaustive account of Gary Gilmore's execution in 1977, there is a macabre moment that catches the extent of the media's appetite for executions. When journalist Larry Schiller, who had struck a cheque-book deal with Gilmore for his exclusive story, gets inside the prison at dawn for his last interview he realises he has



Awaiting the final decision: abused as a child, Robert Harris seemed a good case for clemency

forgotten his notebook. He is forced to scrawl Gilmore's last words on the back of real cheques.

Over the past week, the *Los Angeles Times* introduced a quirky "Execution Journal" column from San Quentin which has reported on how television producers have offered thousands of dollars to locals for the right to park their satellite vans in driveways and turn bungalows into round-the-clock "death watch" headquarters. Local newspapers featured hour-glasses on "Execution Countdown" pages.

In June last year a federal judge ruled against a San Francisco television station that came close to being allowed to film the execution.

The grounds for the court's decision were that the broadcast would provoke a frenzy among inmates with access to receivers. Earlier this month a Fox TV special called *Live! From Death Row* was broadcast. It parodied a fictitious tabloid television show that turns tragedy into early evening entertainment.

But America's obsession with capital punishment when the practice has been abandoned by much of the industrialised Western world cannot simply be explained as fear of ever-growing crime rates. Texas, where murder rates are below the national average, has recently been executing an average of nearly one death-row inmate a week.

Part of the modern appeal of executions in America is that they provide a form of communal focus for evil in a society where confidence in traditional sources of comfort for life's uncertainties, such as religion and the law, is at a record low. Executions are said to offer an illusion of order in a world seemingly out of control.

They also provide an element of social catharsis by reassuring the public that the system is working, which is especially relevant to California, where gang shootings in Los Angeles are endemic, despite its affluent, trend-setting image. Also, the video of the brutal beating of Rodney King lingers in the public mind as the televised trial of the police officers allegedly responsible drags on.

As John Carey, the Oxford critic, has argued, the media's obsession with death, from air crashes to obituaries, is rooted in placating mankind's desire to place himself in the comforting position of a survivor. The only snag with the deluge of death that swamps newspapers and television sets is that it ultimately seems meaningless: it has no answers.

When Martin Amis read Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood*, he observed that you are left simply with a sense of the human mess and futility that attends all death. Executions, however, invest death with moral point.

Or do they? If there was ever a case more appropriate for clemency, it must be Harris's. He was beaten and abused as a child, spent almost all his adult life in prison and suffered psychological impairment from foetal alcohol syndrome. He was born

two months prematurely after his father kicked his mother in the stomach in a jealous rage.

But Governor Pete Wilson, in a carefully staged and scripted speech live on television last Thursday, chose to satisfy the masses and, once again, appease the Republican right although he has made a personal crusade throughout his 16 months in office of how alcohol abuse in pregnancy can lead to permanent psychological damage.

Not only has the last-minute constitutional wrangling made Governor Wilson look foolish but, more importantly in an election year, his political juggling has spoiled his one chance of demonstrating that he had character. To compare Harris's execution with Gilmore's shows a lack of knowledge. While Harris could barely write a letter, Gilmore had an IQ of 140, was a gifted painter and could quote Shelley. While Harris's lawyers have stretched his appeals over 13 years, Gilmore asked to be executed, the final-hour legal wrangling coming from state lawyers who wanted to stop the execution. "You sentenced me to die," Gilmore told them as they tried to get a last minute stay, "unless it's a joke or something."

Harris was convicted of the killing of two 16-year-old boys who were sitting in a San Diego fast food restaurant. After stealing their car, he shot them before going on to rob a bank. What has always really irked Californians is that, after killing the boys, he sat down and ate their hamburgers. "It seemed fun at the time," Harris told a police psychiatrist after his arrest. But there was nothing entertaining about Harris's execution, only a tragic and dubious moral point.

The execution, page 1
Leading article, page 11

Killing on the cards in school yards

Collectable cards of noted murderers have ousted those of sports stars, James Bone reports

Almost every American schoolboy has collected baseball cards with the faces of his favourite players. But now a new craze is sweeping the country's violence-ridden playgrounds — serial killer cards.

Instead of trading pictures of such All-American heroes as Babe Ruth and Willie Mays, kids are swapping portraits of Charles Manson, the cult killer, and Jeffrey Dahmer, the necrophile and cannibal. The cards have raised a storm of controversy, prompting two legislators in New York state to try to ban their sale to minors.

"This is not right, and I think it is time society spoke up," said Ellen Levin, a victims' rights activist whose daughter was murdered in New York's Central Park six years ago.

Made by several manufacturers, the cards come in sets with titles such as *Mass Murderers/Serial Killers, Famous Murderers and Assassins*. On the reverse side they carry a detailed account of the killer's criminal career. Among those "honoured" for instance, is Edmund Emil Kemper, a long-forgotten necrophile affectionately referred to by his first name. "Edmund as a child showed severe psychological disturbance," the card explains. "At age 13 he cut the family cat into pieces and had sadistic fantasies while playing with his gun. Edmund grew to be 6ft 9in tall weighing 280lb."

The card continues: "On May 7, 1972, he picked up two girls, then killed them and dissected them and buried the pieces in the mountains. On September 14, Kemper picked up a 15-year-old girl, raped her and decapitated her and buried the parts. On January 8, 1973, Edmund picked up a girl, killed her and took her body home and engaged in sex acts." The card concludes with an account of how he killed his mother.

Serial killers have been in vogue in America since last year's hit film *The Silence of the Lambs*, the tale of how a jailed cannibal helps in the hunt for another mass murderer. "Are we no longer moved by the depravity exhibited by these individuals, or are we so insensitive that we can trade these cards as though they are portrayals of sports heroes?" asked a statement issued by Alan Hevesi, an assemblyman, and Senator Christopher Mega, the two New York legislators trying to restrict their sale. "What message do these cards give to our young people?" The manufacturers, however, are unrepentant.

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Sarajevo at the mercy of Serb guns

Renewed bloodshed dashes West's hopes

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN BELGRADE

FULL-scale fighting erupted yesterday in Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia-Herzegovina, as Serb forces pounded the city with mortar and rocket fire, securing an advance on the centre, held by Muslim and Croat forces.

After three days of relative calm, Sarajevo residents were woken by the sound of sniper and machinegun fire. Shrapnel littered deserted streets. The fighting flared despite efforts by the United States and Europe in the past few days to induce Serbia to end its involvement in the Bosni-

an conflict. The upsurge in hostilities has dealt a blow to hopes that the bloodshed can still be stemmed.

Gun battles also raged around a building occupied by United Nations peace-keeping forces. Blue-helmeted troops took up positions outside the building, exchanging their intended peace-keeping role for self-defence.

Nine mortar shells hit the city's television station and a police station was also attacked by Serb snipers firing from high-rise buildings some three hundred yards

away. UN forces ventured from their headquarters to collect the wounded from the streets in armoured vehicles after local ambulances were unable to operate because of the continued firing.

Two civilians were killed when their vehicle suffered a direct hit and more than 20 others are understood to have been wounded in the attack, launched from Serb positions outside the city. The centre was still sealed off last night.

Fikret Abdic, a Muslim member of Bosnia's collective leadership, said that the attack marked a clear escalation towards all-out war. He added: "They are trying to break Sarajevo in two." The city has been under siege by Serb forces since the European Community recognised Bosnia's independence two weeks ago.

The Serbs, who account for less than a third of the city's population, have been steadily occupying suburbs and the surrounding hills, and their leaders boast that they are in a position to take it.

In Belgrade, Slobodan Milosevic, Serbia's president, rejected US criticism of his role as groundless and accused America of unwarranted intervention in its affairs. A meeting between Mr Milosevic and Ralph Johnson, a US State Department official, was described by sources close to the talks as tense. Mr Johnson, the sources said, had conveyed Washington's "grave concern at Serbian aggression in Bosnia". In a communiqué issued afterwards, the federal presidency denied that Serbia had territorial claims on Bosnia.

America has said that it will break off diplomatic relations with Belgrade, and the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe has also warned Serbia, which now dominates all Yugoslav institutions, that it is out of line with its commitments to the organisation. The CSCE will meet next Wednesday to review the situation.

Yesterday the State Department continued its criticism of Belgrade.

Western betrayal, page 10

Bossi's Red fellow travellers accused

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

AS 90 newly elected members of parliament from the League of the North prepared to sit in the Italian parliament for the first time tomorrow, the Christian Democrat party has accused the devolutionist movement of being supported by "opportunistic" intellectuals, some of whom previously exalted the merits of the Red Brigades.

The Christian Democrat party newspaper, *Il Popolo*, in a leading article by Sandro Fontana, its editor, lashed out at a group of prominent *let erati* who have vehemently criticised the defects of the traditional Italian political parties in such northern establishment newspapers as *Corriere della Sera* and *La Stampa*.

Signor Fontana also singled out Piero Ottone, a leading columnist for *La Repubblica* newspaper, who in 1987 in another newspaper called the Red Brigades extremist group "a model of organisation and courage". But he attacked three other prominent men of letters, Severino Bertone and Giovanni Robbioni, who write for *Corriere della Sera*, and Guido Caronni, a poet who writes for *La Stampa*.

Signor Robbioni had hailed the "political earthquake" set

off by the Italian general election earlier this month saying that a "bit of instability perhaps will accustom us citizens to behave like human beings". Signor Bertone wrote that it would be useless to blame Umberto Bossi, the league's leader, for having broken up Italy. The men of letters "were professional rebels" and opportunists, *Il Popolo* said.

All but two of the 90 new MPs will take up their seats for the first time in tomorrow's first session of parliament since the election. One problem facing parliamentarians will be to decide where the federalist deputies should sit in the chamber. Signor Bossi has threatened to boycott the election of a new president of the Chamber of Deputies if his group is forced to sit next to the neo-fascist Italian Social Movement members of parliament on the far right of the chamber.

He has demanded that the league be given seats positioned between the Christian Democrats and the centrist Republican party and the liberal party. This may be opposed by the Christian Democrats, who do not want to give up their traditional position in parliament.



High note: Luciano Pavarotti, the Italian opera singer, displaying the Légion d'honneur medal presented to him by Roland Dumas, the French foreign minister, at the Bastille Opera in Paris

Rostov Ripper admits to being a flaw of nature

FROM REUTER IN MOSCOW

ANDREI Chikatilo, the Russian confessed serial killer and cannibal, described himself in court yesterday as "a mad beast" driven by a flawed nature to rape and slaughter rampages.

Shaven-headed and staring-eyed Mr Chikatilo testified from a cage at his trial in the southern city of Rostov-on-Don. He told the court he murdered at least 55 people in a 10-year series of atrocities. In his first testimony, he acknowledged that he was the mystery attacker who stalked adolescents of both sexes, raping them and killing with a knife, a rope or his teeth.

Mr Chikatilo, aged 56, now dubbed "the Rostov Ripper", said that he was unsure how many victims he had slain in a trail of carnage through

southern Russia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. "Possibly 55, maybe more," he told the judge, Tass reported.

Tense courtroom sessions, broken by the distraught weeping of female relatives, have heard that the former schoolteacher raped and slaughtered teenagers and ate their sexual organs. "I am a mistake of nature, a mad beast," Mr Chikatilo said.

The trial began last week with an outburst from the prisoner that he had been denied a chance to speak on his own behalf. Grizzly evidence from the prosecution has occupied the trial till now.

Mr Chikatilo was arrested in 1990 for 53 murders and confessed to 55, showing police the burial places of teenagers whose deaths had gone unrecorded. He faces the death penalty — traditionally a bullet in the back of the head — if convicted.

He sought to persuade the court that he was a victim of the former Soviet totalitarian system, Tass said. He spoke

of an early life in poverty, constant travelling about and staying in various lodging places, enduring rudeness from employers. Mr Chikatilo said he had been a Young Communist League member and later joined the Soviet Communist party. He said he graduated from the Institute of Marxism-Leninism, worked as a lecturer and had dreamed of having a top political career in the communist ideological system which Russia has now renounced.

Defence psychiatrists say Mr Chikatilo from early childhood suffered torments during a brutal period of Soviet repression. "What he lived through in his childhood was dreadful. When he started telling me about his life, it was already the story of his illness," psychiatrist Aleksandr Bukharinov, said in a press interview. "It started from his earliest childhood."

He told the psychiatrist that his brother had been eaten by starving peasants during a 1930s Ukraine famine.

Ex-king allowed to return

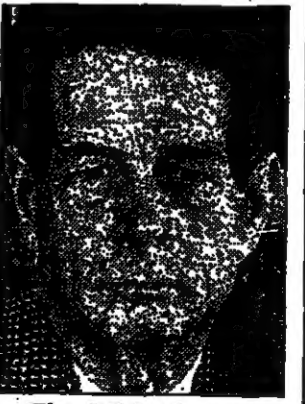
BY MICHAEL BINTON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

FORMER King Michael of Romania has been given permission to return to his native country to take up an invitation by the Romanian Orthodox Church to celebrate Easter this weekend.

Two earlier attempts in 1990 to return to Romania, from which the young king was driven out by the communists in 1947, were thwarted by the post-communist Bucharest government. However, the foreign ministry said yesterday that the former king would be given a visa as a common citizen without delay.

King Michael and his wife Anne, who live in Switzerland, will attend Easter service in a monastery at Putna, near the Moldavian frontier. There is little popular support for his reinstatement as king, but his visit is likely to fuel debate over the monarchy at a time of deep political divisions in Romania.

King Michael, with five daughters but no sons, is the only surviving second world war head of state. Romania prevented Swissair from flying him back at Easter 1990, and at Christmas he was expelled soon after landing when he tried to visit the family tombs near Bucharest.



King Michael: to get visa from Romania

Tourists frustrate attempt to stop lava

Zaferrana: A small group of tourists, who evaded police checkpoints and climbed Mount Etna yesterday, forced Italian and American marines to postpone an attempt to block a flow of lava from the erupting volcano.

The group had come too close to the source of the lava to allow explosives to be detonated, American military sources said, and the operation was put back to later in the afternoon. The marines were planning to block an underground river of lava which is threatening the village of Zaferrana. Stiff winds thwarted a bid to stem the flow on Monday. (Reuters)

Police injured

Berlin: Twelve policemen were injured, three seriously, and 21 people were arrested in clashes at the end of a demonstration "against racism and fascism", police said. The rally was one of about 150 in Germany during the four-day Easter break. (AFP)

Scientists stay

Moscow: No top nuclear weapons specialists of the former Soviet Union have gone abroad to work and restrictions on their travel remain as rigid as ever. Victor Mikhailov, the Russian atomic energy minister, told the workers' daily *Trud*. (AFP)

Credit offered

Madrid: Spain is to grant Ukraine a \$250 million (£143 million) credit line to encourage trade between the two countries, Francisco Fernández Ordóñez, the foreign minister, said before leaving for Russia and Ukraine on an official visit. (Reuters)

Warders held

Sofia: Bulgarian police have arrested three communist-era labour camp warders on charges of killing prisoners. Liko Yotzov, the chief military prosecutor, announced. He said two men and a woman were now awaiting interrogation. (Reuters)

Clean-up order

Athens: The Greek government has empowered local governors to take whatever steps are necessary, including hiring outside help, to dispose of the piles of rubbish that have accumulated during a 13-day national strike by refuse collectors. (AP)

Easter road toll

Madrid: Highway accidents claimed 171 lives as Spanish drivers took to the roads in droves during the Easter week holidays, officials of the national traffic office said. The accidents also left 175 people injured. (AP)

Guards killed

Kishinev, Moldavia: Four Transnistrian guards were killed and two Moldavian police officers wounded in separate clashes in eastern Moldavia, officials said here. Three of the guards were killed while attacking a village police station. (AFP)

Wine barred

Tokyo: Japan's health ministry stopped sales of a further 19 brands of Italian wine suspected of containing a chemical banned for use in food, an official said. The wine is being tested for methyl isothiocyanate. (Reuters)

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FRANCE. IT'S A REVELATION

AIR FRANCE

WARSAW NOTEBOOK by Roger Boyes

Limo politicians bask in new status

Ripples of alarm spread through the Polish political class the other day when thieves snatched the red Peugeot of Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the former prime minister.

A police patrol spotted the car and gave chase through Warsaw's streets. Eventually the police car's engine blew a gasket: the rundown patrol vehicles are no match for the smart Western limousines of the new political establishment. Seizing the moment, a high-powered team of car alarm salesmen infiltrated parliament and various party headquarters to peddle their sirens to worried politicians.

To travel in style is the great craving of status-hungry governors in the east of Europe. Indeed, the first moral problem of the Solidarity government after taking power in 1989 was whether to accept a batch of Lancias ordered from Fiat by the communists, or whether to travel to work by tram. They chose the Lan-

cias and initiated a car revolution. Politicians are no longer taken seriously unless they have a four-door limousine at their command. The only difference

between left and right is that former communists tend to eschew drivers.

Some years ago, Lech Walesa used to fix clapped-out Russian and Polish cars to pay the bills of the shipyard. Nowadays, as president, he is driven around in a bullet-proof

Mercedes. But at weekends he uses an air force jet to travel to Gdansk to visit his wife and eight children.

The flight, says an official, is a routine training mission and the president is simply hitching a ride. It does not therefore figure on the presidential budget, which has been submitted to parliament — about £16 million a year covering a staff of 230 and restoration of the kitchen of the Belvedere Palace. Even so, the suspicion remains that Poland could save some sorry needed money if the president's wife joined her husband in Warsaw.

The old political class preferred the train to the car. They had their Chaika limousines and their solid Zils, special delivery from the Moscow car factories. But the trains opened up new political possibilities, providing a useful mobile hideout for political encounters. They were used especially for secret meetings near the Soviet frontier.

In the 1950s and the 1960s, these government trains were the last word in luxury. The most enthusiastic train travellers were the first postwar party leaders. Boleslaw Bierut and Wladyslaw Gomułka. In those days a company of soldiers was positioned next to the leaders' carriages. Now the trains are protected only by an overweight dog and they languish on a siding in a Warsaw suburb.

In theory you can rent a special train for £4,000, plus mileage and the salaries of the drivers and the restaurant staff. Nobody has shown an interest. Some Western entrepreneurs, however, are closing in. One French businessman wants to make the trains a nucleus of a museum express to tour the cultural sites of Eastern and Western Europe.

But for the time being there is little chance of wooing the new Solidarity team away from horsepower: democracy has arrived on four-wheel drive.



Hurd tells Turkey to aid Kurds

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ANKARA

DOUGLAS Hurd yesterday urged Turkey to renew its commitment to provide operational support for Operation Provide Comfort, the air surveillance of northern Iraq designed to prevent the Kurds from an Iraqi assault.

Mr Hurd, making his first trip abroad since being reappointed foreign secretary, was speaking one week after the alliance forces demanded that President Saddam Hussein disarm missiles north of the 36th parallel. The foreign secretary's visit was a welcome guest in Turkey, particularly after a German decision to impose an arms embargo as punishment for the use of German tanks in police Turkey's own Kurdish insurrection.

Turkey which has all but given up any hopes for immediate entry into the EC, is suspicious that the Kurdish issue is being exploited as a means of further distancing Turkey from the Community. Mr Hurd's reference to Turkey as a "priority for British aid" and the need for a special relationship between Turkey and the EC was misleading in some way to calm Turkey's fears. He member of the coalition against Saddam Hussein — a reference to his expectations that the Turkish parliament will renew the mandate to when the current agreement expires at the end of June.

Conor Cruise O'Brien

The doctrine of hellfire has more to do with hatred of others than with fear

John Patten last week urged that greater fear of Hell and damnation, prompted by a rather stronger whiff of fire and brimstone from church pulpits, would prevent people from taking up a life of crime.

As a participant on the pro-choice side in the abortion controversy now raging in the Republic of Ireland, I think I have probably more personal experience of the verbal application of fire and brimstone than Mr Patten. Take the following passage, from a letter which reached me last week from Co. Kerry:

O'Brien, you will be sorry one day when you meet a MAN bigger than you and he will say to you DEPART O'BRIEN INTO EVERLASTING FIRE TO BURN FOR EVER. Then you will turn to the UNBORN BABIES murdered by you to bring a drop of cold water and place it on your tongue to cool it in the flames of hell. You know the answer the little babies will give you. You murdered us. We are now very happy. You are now getting your reward - fire - fire - fire.

The letter is signed with a number of women's first names: "Marie", "Patsy", "Joan", "Phyllis", "Michelle".

Mr Patten, and those who think like him, should note that the emotion which the idea of Hell induces in these devotees is not fear. The idea that they might be at some risk themselves, because of the hatred that has them in its grip, clearly does not occur to them for a moment. Hell, for them, is a place in which persons who contradict them, in the debates on earth, are deemed to be tortured throughout eternity. So conceived, Hell is clearly a most enjoyable idea. One of the church fathers - Tertullian, I think - taught that the bliss of the saints in Heaven is increased by the contemplation of the sufferings of the damned below in Hell. My correspondents in Co. Kerry are clearly enjoying a forerunner of that bliss.

I suspect that the emotion most widely and vividly aroused by the idea of Hell has always been vindictive joy, rather than fear. "Hell is for the others" was the leitmotif of the controversies of the ages of faith. There must always, of course, have been some who were afraid of Hell as something that might happen to themselves personally. That category would include many of the timid and the depressed, the sick and the dying, plus a few others, notably certain Calvinist divines and other introspective intellectuals. It is not, however, from such groups that potential criminals are drawn. For a vigorous and extroverted young man or woman contemplating the advantages to be derived from a career of crime or sin, I doubt whether the idea of Hell ever operated as a deterrent, even when that idea was most fervently promulgated from the pulpits of the various churches.

Take the hypothetical case of a young man weighing the benefits and risks of becoming a highwayman around, say, 1650, when Hell was in its heyday. How high would the risk of hellfire rank in

the mind of the potential highwayman, compared with the substantial risk of being hanged drawn and quartered if caught? Pretty low down, I imagine. Such a young man would not have attended church very much as a boy and would not have paid much attention to what he heard there. If he took Hell seriously at all, he would have learned that the sinner could avoid it by repentance after he had made his pile. Meanwhile, there was a more serious matter to attend to: dodging the gallowes.

Bear in mind that the ages of faith, far from relying on Hell as a deterrent to crime, applied far more ferocious material deterrents than are available in our own less Hell-reliant culture.

Mr Patten's thoughts about the social utility of fire-and-brimstone theology, no doubt evolved during his period, now happily concluded, as junior Home Office minister. The thoughts may have been prompted by a desire - professionally understandable in the circumstances - to lay the blame for rising crime-rates, since 1980, at the door of the churches, rather than of the government. However that may be, I hope Mr Patten will refrain from pursuing that line of thought now that he has been entrusted with higher responsibilities, as Secretary of State for Education. The idea of fire and brimstone as deterrents from crime is simply harmless nonsense. But this line of thinking, if it could be applied in the field of education, would have pernicious effects.

The traditional Christian teaching about Hell has always had a tendency to boggle the minds of those who took it seriously. The idea of an infinitely loving and compassionate God who tortures throughout eternity those who have incurred His disapproval is inherently difficult. It is certainly stimulating to the imagination: whether of Dante on one level, or of my Kerry correspondents on another. I wouldn't want the imagination of my own children to be stimulated in that way, and I hope Mr Patten does not intend to nudge British education in that direction. If he does, it won't work, at least in the present decade. Only minds steeped in traditional Christian theology are capable of reconciling the notion of infinite love with the practice of eternal punishment. Few such minds are around any longer, even in the churches, which is the burden of Mr Patten's complaint. To minds not formed by that theology, the traditional Christian teaching on Hell appears, at best, a sick joke.

There are, however, conditions in which Hell could stage a comeback. It is doing so now in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. In the capitalist world, if the recession deepens into a protracted depression, there could be a revival of old-time religion to the tune of "Repent, Repent!" The Enlightenment could be repealed, as a distorted branch of it has been in the former Soviet Union. If that is so, future historians will mark Mr Patten's statement on Hell but as a harbinger of how history was beginning to move in 1992. I very much hope not.



Eternal torture: Dante's vision of hell inspired him

Anne McElvoy in Belgrade asks if the West can stop Serbian nationalism running wild

As Serbia renewed its bombardment of Sarajevo this week, America and Europe warned that it must stop its involvement in the Bosnian conflict by the end of the month or face exclusion from the international community. Washington is considering a full break in diplomatic relations, in which case European capitals would be likely to follow suit.

State television responded to the threat by calling for all Serbs to stand up for their dignity in the face of threatened foreign aggression. The indications so far are that Slobodan Milosevic, their leader, intends to stand alone in the face of universal condemnation and take his country into the wilderness.

The West's response may well be too little, too late. After five years in power, a campaign of brutal repression in the Albanian province of Kosovo, war in Croatia and a systematic distortion of Serbian traditions and intellectual life, Mr Milosevic has achieved absolute power and a fearful acceptance at home which makes him difficult to budge. His tenure has seen the spread of apocalyptic thinking which has the country either emerging victorious from wars of conquest in which all Serbs will be united and

all foes crushed, or standing defiant and unbowed against the infidels, opportunists and unprincipled cowards who make up the rest of Europe.

In the short term, the West's new tough stance may strengthen his grip on power by enabling him to claim that the West is anti-Serb. Nevertheless, the West's response is correct. The alternative is to allow an army heartened by its success in grabbing territory in Croatia to go on the rampage in newly independent Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In order to make the Western threats stick, however, they must be followed up by other measures. There can be no recognition of Serbia and Montenegro as the heirs to the old Yugoslavia, and no return to the conference table in The Hague as long as the violence continues in Bosnia.

Mr Milosevic's response will be that this has nothing to do with him - that he does not command the army and that technically Serbia is not at war with anyone. The paramilitaries, he will say, are not under his control. Such is the

reasoning he used to persuade the EC in Croatia. This time, however, we should be less glib and insist that it is within his power to stop the bloodshed.

Nevertheless, internal as well as external pressures are building. Inflation is running at 28,000 per cent per annum. Prices rise every day, and the dinar exchange rate now changes twice a day. All foreign currency accounts have been confiscated. Taxi drivers cannot tune their meters fast enough to record the fares, and instead simply agree on an appropriate bundle of notes at the beginning of the trip.

Mr Milosevic is on record as saying that his people will "eat roots" rather than forswear the cause of national unity. The day may be nearer than he thinks. If Serbia is frozen out of the international system, it will lose its membership of the International Monetary Fund and can wave goodbye to any structured help in stabilising its chaotic economy.

As a result of the state of the economy, Mr Milosevic has been deserted by precisely those sup-

porters who were most enthusiastic during the early stages of the war in Croatia. Belgrade's shopkeepers - once solidly behind the attacks on Croatia - now see the price of war in the uselessness of the currency. The young, who marched in droves holding giant pictures of the leader's stubborn, pudgy face now ask relatives to answer the door to avoid call-up.

There is discontent, but no opposition is yet strong enough to topple a man who rules by intimidation and sheer nerve. Opponents are routinely roughed up and have their offices destroyed. An extreme nationalist MP who kicked the backsides of striking teachers outside the Belgrade parliament was greeted with smirks by the government benches. He was then allowed onto state TV to read out a list of 20 critical journalists who should, he said, be deported.

It is time the West offered more than vague encouragement to the opposition. Instead, Western nations have sapped its morale by doing business with Mr Milosevic for too long. Serbia needs support

and encouragement in ridding itself of dictatorship and in finding its way out of its expansionist war and back to the fold of modern Europe.

The federal army is a white elephant which will lumber around the region for some years to come, and it would be foolhardy to imagine that this massive relic of Titoism can be easily killed off. But it is Serbian nationalism that is propelling the army, and this - and its chief exponent, Mr Milosevic - must be tackled first.

Typically, he will wait until the last possible moment to extract the maximum benefit from any situation before bowing to international pressure, a tactic he adopted masterfully in Croatia, ensuring that the army had control of a third of the republic's territory before he agreed to a UN deployment. He may well try this on again at the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe, calling off the soldiers in Bosnia in the nick of time. This is not without risk for him. Any backing down may induce the army - particularly the younger generals, who dislike his communist past - to turn on him. His end may yet come at the hands of the military he has exploited for his own ends.

The true words of jesters

Hill and Howard stood in a noble tradition, says Bernard Richards

This week has seen the deaths of two great comedians: Frankie Howard and Benny Hill. I shall miss them acutely. Why should this be? After all, some might say they were only entertainers, and it may seem that spreading fun around is an optional extra in a society. Nothing could be further from the truth. The contribution made by comedians to a culture is of central and vital importance, and always has been. These two deceased clowns are heirs to long traditions stretching back in our particular history, and in the general history of mankind.

The earliest societies recognised the importance of clowns and jesters. They were given license to utter the unsayable, and to allow for a release of pressure when the restrictions of reverence and authority proved too much. Until the Renaissance, many a monarch employed professional fools, although sometimes when sailing too close to the wind they had to "heed the whip" as King Lear puts it. Unfortunately, authority continues to wield the whip - nowadays by insisting that comedy be "politically correct".

The antics of comedians were able to distract people from suffering, and their slapstick and whimsical movements could often prove extremely beguiling. Even mortality could be kept at bay by their antics. In *Lear's Lear*, Berowne is used "to move wild laughter in the throat of death".

In realms where high priority was placed on control, order, and spiritual ambition, the fool's reminders of physicality and bodily functions - including sex and excretion - were salutary. Lear's Fool drags in unseemly references not just to amuse the King, but to show that spiritual and intellectual high-mindedness is vulnerable and limited if it takes no account of the bodily elements which determine our makeup. His

revelations of these dichotomies help to drive Lear mad, but that is because he is faced with contradictory knowledge too suddenly. In a more healthy situation, the gradual and persistent revelations offered by comedy are more benign.

Benny Hill and Frankie Howard fit well into this ancient and noble tradition. They were masters of sexual innuendo, and were forever stripping polite language of its perfunctory seriousness to reveal a disruptive and anarchic underbelly. When, in *Up Pompeii*, Howard's Lurcio leerily described himself as "serving his mistress", he was straining the word excessively, just as an Elizabethan comedy might have done.

Howard's suggestiveness and Hill's flagrancy were irresistible, as they compelled us to reveal in the lawlessness and irrepressibility of the sexual drive. This is why exposed meanings and exposed flesh (especially female flesh in *The Benny Hill Show*) attracted the censors, who wish to keep everything in the comic universe tightly buttoned up.

The austere regard of control must always be resisted, and no one should be allowed to legislate about what is politically correct either in the realms of language or in the complicated, varied and riotous realms of sexuality. Some people wanted to bowdlerise these two comedians. This response was not unlike that of the Puritan city fathers of Shakespeare's time, who were always looking for excuses to close the theatres. They hated to encounter the presentation of alternative modes of life. Showing scantily clad young women cavorting with Benny Hill was not sexist; it deliberately undermined the dignity of both sexes.

But comedy is not merely a distraction and an evasion. It is a form of concentration and alertness. Its special virtue is that it



Professional foot: he was licensed to break society's polite codes

forces us to attend to the very mechanism which enables tyranny and injustice to flourish: abuse of language. Comic wordplay subverts the complacencies and fixities of language. Often this wordplay seems to lead only to nonsense and fantasy, but even within the fantasy a new perspective is offered on the realities we

think so sure and fixed. Frankie Howard was especially gifted at turning language inside out, like Feste's "cheveril glove". In an era when so much comedy is dependent on expensive props and elaborate visual equipment, it was a delight to hear what he could do with words alone. It is no accident that his reputation, like that of the

equally lamented Kenneth Williams, was established on radio. Howard recently entranced an Oxford Union audience by simply standing on the stage and talking. (He told them he would like to be made an honorary Doctor of Psychology, because he was interested in human beings. I wonder if the university could award the honour posthumously?)

Comics such as Terry Thomas, Tommy Cooper, Frankie Howard and Benny Hill fit into ancient traditions, which will surely survive, and there will be other practitioners to follow in their footsteps. However, that in no way diminishes the feeling of loss at their going, because while one can point to their techniques and explain, in a learned way, how they relate to the comedy of Aristophanes or Shakespeare, each had particular innovations and gestures, facial expressions and voices which were unique. They helped to give a strong sense of what it is to be English. They represent the eccentric, rebellious and critical side of the English character, the reluctance to be over-awed and bullied by systems and restrictions. They belonged to an ancient tendency to regard the language as a plaything to manipulate and a territory where speculative freedoms can disport themselves.

They also demanded audiences - and this was especially true of Howard - who were highly responsive to nuance, suggestion and pregnant timing. Their charm was to interact with the sympathetic audience, who were flattered to think that they could be invited into their comic world and participate in it. They appealed to the fourth-former in us that refuses to die. Frankie Howard once said he gave the phrase "Not on your nelly" to the English language. What a splendid contribution to have made. And he was right about David Frost too - his hair is "on backwards".

Bernard Richards is a fellow of Brasenose College, Oxford.



...and moreover ALAN COREN

On my 19-year-old daughter's bedroom wall there hangs a poster of Ronald Reagan. It is not there for, as you might reasonably suspect, political derision. It is there for something else.

The poster shows the ex-president as pre-president, i.e. in the days when he was acting only for money, and it shows him with, if American readers will bear with me, a fag in his mouth. It is the only place for it to be, since both his hands are occupied, one holding a carton of Chesterfield cigarettes, the other signing it; for it is Christmas and the cartoon incorporates a greetings card showing children chucking snowballs at a sleigh. Above his smoking head hangs a message also signed which reads "I'm sending Chesterfields to all my friends. That's the merriest Christmas any smoker can have."

That is why it is on Victoria's wall to remind her that smoking can seriously damage your brains. It is a memento mori. But it has a very different subtext for me. For me, it summons up remembrance of things past, sessions of sweet silent fag-packets which did not warn that death accelerated with every puff. It summons it up because Chesterfields were the first cigarettes I ever smoked. I didn't bind myself to the weed of fire until I went to live in America, in 1961; and when bored enquire why I began smoking I find it quite difficult to explain that until 1961, I wasn't in a position to do the thing with a cigarette

pack which all young men then longed to do, viz. jerk it upwards so that a cigarette flew out to be caught between the lips, because English packs were not built that way, they did not have a paper top you ripped off, they had a mazy little drawer you pushed open, to allow you delicately to prise a cigarette out between finger and thumb. It was the great divide which separated me from Humphrey Bogart, and I could not cross it until 1961. In fact, I didn't cross it effectively until 1962, because it took me a year to learn how to avoid covering the floor in Chesterfields, but persistence paid off. You can hear it when I breathe.

In short, smoking was for tough guys then; if you saw a man with a filter-tip, you asked him who his dressmaker was, because 1961 was before you knew for certain what now keeps you in thrall to the worst uncertainty there is. And what, when it became certain, set the tobacco industry and its hapless slaves on a poignant search, not unlike the hunt for the perpetual-motion machine or the philosopher's stone which this week takes yet another great leap forward.

It is the search for negative tar.

When, in 1964, things became certain, Silk Cut were invented. They had less tar, I did not know how much tar Chesterfields had (if I smoke one now, it tastes like a new-laid road), but I switched brands because it seemed sensible. Then, a few

years later, Silk Cut introduced a new blue pack to shelve alongside the original purple one, and since these had even less tar, I switched again, because it seemed even more sensible; until the new yellow pack appeared which said Ultra on it, and if it said Ultra, it was bound to have the least tar there was, and this would be the most sensible thing I had ever done. Non-smokers will of course argue that there was an even more sensible thing to do, but that's non-smokers for you, heads in the non-clouds, no use to anyone.

But now everything has changed yet again. This week, not only has the Ultra been withdrawn because it is less ultra than the Extra which replaces it, it is itself less ultra, 5 mg. than the new Ultra, which has only 1 mg. of tar. Amazing! You will be, for Silk Cut have also introduced something so much more ultra than the new Ultra that they have to call it Super, because it has only 0.1 mg of tar in it, i.e. it is not merely 50 times more sensible to smoke than the old Ultra, it is 10 times more sensible even than the new Ultra.

So the search is almost over. Soon, surely, Silk Cut will produce an Extra Ultra Super with minus 0.1 mg of tar in it; every one you smoke will seriously improve your health. And why not? As Ronnie and I used to say back in our acting days, a smoker's gotta dream, boy, it comes with the territory.

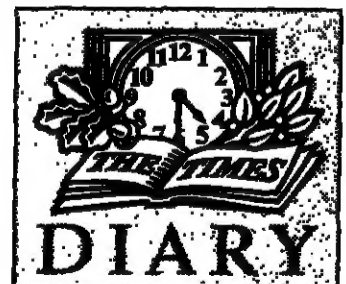
Out of the handbag

MRS THATCHER's criticism of John Major in her *Newsweek* article was commissioned before the general election - and had the Tories lost she was poised to deliver an even more vitriolic attack on her successor.

The article was arranged almost a month ago by Daniel Pedersen, the London bureau chief, who has interviewed Mrs Thatcher for the magazine in the past. She took no persuading, but agreed only to an article to be written after April 9. "She replied by letter," says Pedersen. "We have a standing compartment in the magazine which provides a platform for leaders past and present. Richard Nixon, Henry Kissinger and Ronald Reagan have all contributed. I think she agreed because she realised if she speaks through *Newsweek*, she speaks globally."

But *Newsweek* denies claims by some Tories that it was bad form to deliver such an attack from overseas. Not only was it commissioned in London, but it was written by Mrs Thatcher in her Belgrave office. "It is a message not from across the Atlantic but from the depths of SW1," says Pedersen.

Newsweek refuses to reveal how heavily her words were edited - but the answer seems to be very little, if at all. Wary after *Vanity Fair* misrepresented her comments about the value of family life, Mrs Thatcher insisted on complete textual control. Her office declined to discuss whether anyone had helped draft the article, and the group around *The Spectator* which has continued to champion her cause since John Major became prime minister denies any involvement. "I have had two meetings with her in the past



week and did not even know she was writing it," said Simon Hefter, deputy editor of *The Spectator*. So the evidence suggests that every word, including the line about Major not being his "own man", is Mrs Thatcher's own work.

Pedersen says: "It was a very good piece and she was making changes right up to the very last minute. The final line edit was done by her and she saw it before it appeared in the magazine."

● A packed house at Belfast's Grand Opera House last night helped to prove that the show must go on. Following a four-month closure after a car-bomb caused £1 million of structural damage, the Irish leisure classes were out in force for the reopening night to prove that it takes more than a little terrorism to keep them from their culture. The production, of course, was Les Liaisons Dangereuses.

three naked witches, and was to have been shown on Tyneside's underground rail network, plugging the English Shakespeare Company touring production - which arrives in the city next month. However, 400 years after its completion, Metro Marketing, an arm of the Tyne and Wear Passenger Transport Authority, has deemed the picture unsuitable for public consumption. "It is inappropriate," says an official. The posters have been replaced by others advertising, the ESC's production of *The Sound of Music*, with not a nude in sight.



Red all over

A PERTINENT question as May Day approaches whatever happened to all the Soviet Union's red flags and the miles of red cloth that used to go into making them? According to a Moscow paper, most of it has already been subject to unauthorised "privatisation". A worker at one of the flag factories says: "When the Soviet Union collapsed, we had no instructions about what to do with the flags, so we started taking them home - after all, it's good material." Says the paper: "It might be a

Pearly queens

THE GIRLS IN PEARLS, those soft-focus portraits of engaged society belles - which to the eyes of many have all-but disappeared from the pages *Country Life* - may be about to stage a comeback. Clive Aslet, the editor-designate who will take the chair at the end of the year, is hoping to tempt the debutantes back by launching a competition for the best portrait, to be published as a frontpiece. Until last year, the magazine relied on society photographers sending in their own decorous pin-ups of their subjects, but times have changed. "The portrait is in decline," says Aslet. "Studio photography has become rather an old-fashioned medium. I hope we can encourage a renaissance."

● Among the fans paying tribute to Benny Hill yesterday was the unlikely figure of Tony Benn. "I liked his saucy seaside-postcard humour. It's very sad news, especially following the death of Frankie Howard. I liked them both," said Benn yesterday. Some of his colleagues will be surprised to think of Benn tittering at double entendres between drawing up bills to abolish the monarchy and disestablish the Church of England. "What happened to political correctness?" I don't think you should carry political convictions into entertainment. Bob Hope is a right-wing Republican and I like him, too.

THE

AGONY

LOGIC



THE CHAPERONE

And mother came too. During the leadership contest in December 1990, Margaret Thatcher offered John Major to the country as her favourite ideological son. For all his yearning to be left alone, she found it hard to keep aloof from his prolonged courtship with the electorate. Now that the courtship is consummated, she wishes it to be known where the credit lies. Thatcherism had proved an -ism so robust as to defy the pundits and psephologists by returning her protégé to Downing Street against the odds. But she wants the family's honour respected, in the observance as well as in the breach. Young Major had better be careful.

Mrs Thatcher's latest effusion, in *Newsweek*, reads less offensively than edited extracts suggest. The gist of her argument is that the only ideology still alive and kicking in British politics is still the one that bears her name, and nobody should forget it. It is assailed not by worthy rivals but by puny lobbies and sectional interests. They can sabotage it, impede it, deride it and caricature it. They can use reactionary officials, backsliding ministers, even the reputed "wetness" of the prime minister, to subvert Thatcherism. But they cannot replace it because there is nothing with which to do so. Every critique of British politics has to define itself against the principles of market pricing, private enterprise and a declining public sector set out by Mrs Thatcher and her friends back in 1975. As for Majorism: fiddlerssticks!

There is much truth in this. If only Mrs Thatcher could find a way of saying so which did not sound so peevish. The status of British elder statesman requires equal parts of dignity, good humour and a sense of timing. Mrs Thatcher shows none of them. By using foreign platforms, Mrs Thatcher evinces groans from her former colleagues. She makes it easier for them to dismiss her as a has-been, parading personal bitterness like Mikhail Gorbachev wherever false offers a high enough fee.

A more appropriate moment for her first post-election intervention would have been after the Queen's Speech, or in a maiden

speech in the House of Lords. But that is not Mrs Thatcher's style. She must be taken, as always, as she comes. On or between the lines of Mrs Thatcher's article are specific warnings against the growth of public spending and borrowing, against excessive industrial intervention, against enlarging the public sector. This attitude was explicit in the election to Parliament of every member of the existing cabinet. If mandates mean anything, they must continue this policy.

Mr Major's vulnerability to Mrs Thatcher's continuing watchfulness is not that he has a new concept of Conservatism to supplant hers. He may have soft-peddled on some of the last government's tougher initiatives before the election, but then Mrs Thatcher would have done the same. All prime ministers tend to enter an ideology-free zone in the second half of a parliament.

No, he has the opportunity to face down Mrs Thatcher's challenge by proving that the implication of her article is wrong: to show by his deeds that her legacy is safe in his hands and those of his colleagues, that his ambition is to redefine and develop the policies that emerged on the right of the British political spectrum in the 1980s and to which the left has as yet no answer. Those policies were indeed those associated with Mrs Thatcher, and no harm is done by nodding occasionally in her direction.

Mr Major should be in a hurry. With each roll of the electoral dice the odds against another Tory election victory must lengthen. He has a Queen's Speech due, an economic recovery in the offing and ideologically distinct policies awaiting implementation in health, housing, transport, industry, local government and Europe. He should articulate the principles underlying these policies. He is no intellectual and shows no inclination to construct a new Conservatism to supplant that of his predecessor. He has no need to: the old one will do fine. But he must not play Bonar Law to Mrs Thatcher's Chamberlain. By words and deeds he must show that he is indeed his own man and can venture out into the turbulent politics of the 1990s without an ideological chaperone.

AGONY ON DEATH ROW

The gassing of Robert Harris in California was an obscene spectacle. He took 11 minutes to die, his convulsions watched by a panel of 50 witnesses. Before the cyanide pellets were finally dropped into acid, he was subjected to a macabre legal farce, as repeated stays of execution were upheld and then overturned. Having said goodbye to fellow inmates, he was already strapped inside the gas chamber when news of another delay came through. He was taken out, put in a waiting room, and sent back to the chamber again 50 minutes later. In any other country such an on-off-on "mock execution", a form of psychological torture, would be universally condemned as a cruel violation of human rights.

His execution, ending a 25-year moratorium in California, opens the way for the judicial killing of over 300 convicts in the state, some of whom have been on Death Row for almost two decades — about the time that most murderers serve in jail in states where capital punishment has been abolished. Since 1976, when the Supreme Court lifted the ban on execution as a "cruel and unusual punishment," about 170 people have been executed at a rapidly increasing rate. In the 36 states which still retain capital punishment, over 2,500 await execution.

Amid growing public despair over rising crime, judges and governors are striving to outdo each other in their enthusiasm at election time for the death penalty. But when politicians use human lives to boost their standing in the polls, the proper separation of the judiciary from the political process starts to break down. In America no less than in the Third World, human rights must stand above the baying for revenge by the mob.

By any definition, gassing a man to death is cruel and unusual punishment. How can any state tolerate the gas chamber after the

Nazi Holocaust? Other methods of execution are no less barbaric. The electric chair, wheeled out from museums for the electrodes to be buried in to give better contact with human flesh, belongs, like the hangman's noose, to another age. Even the lethal injection is far from humane: the poisonous cocktail paralyses the victim quickly but he can still take an unconscionable time to die.

The United States is the only Western nation to practise capital punishment on a large scale. In doing so it comes close to violating its own human rights undertakings. In 1977 President Carter signed two international conventions, the American Convention on Human Rights and the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. These stipulated that no body mentally ill, or a juvenile when the crime was committed, should be executed; that there should be a right of appeal for clemency; and that nothing should be done to delay the abolition of capital punishment.

Neither convention was ratified. Neither has been complied with since. Amnesty International says that at least five people have been executed who were under 18 when they committed their offence; several have been severely retarded; and in Texas no condemned man has ever been reprieved — effectively denying any right to clemency.

The United States has long aspired to the moral highground in preaching human rights around the world. For too long its friends and admirers have muted their criticism of its own arbitrary practice of legal execution. The Harris case, with all the attendant doubts over his conviction and troubled background, is particularly disturbing. The death penalty is an uncivilised and unjustified punishment; the cat-and-mouse game played with the anguished inmates of Death Row is doubly inhumane and intolerable.

LOGIC OF GRAMMAR

Progressive child-centred teaching started with the best of motives. If children enjoyed school they would learn more. If they were not labelled failures they would work harder. By finding things out for themselves they would understand them better. Unfortunately, as in many a well meant reform, the results were often the opposite of those so earnestly intended.

The teaching of the English language is a case in point. Today the National Association for the Teaching of English starts its annual conference. Its members would do well to ask themselves why, with progressive teaching, standards of reading and writing are so low. A report leaked by educational psychologists two years ago showed that reading standards of seven-year-olds had fallen drastically over the previous five years. According to the Adult Literacy and Basic Skills Unit, one in four 16 to 20-year-olds had reading problems and more than one-third had trouble with spelling.

Children will never learn to speak and write properly if, for instance, their teachers tell them that "we was" is as "valid" as "we were". A study commissioned by the government on how English should be taught under the national curriculum summed up many teachers' views. The government refused to publish it because it disagreed with the findings. It is not hard to see why. To regard grammar in terms of mistakes, the report recommended, was "unhelpful". Rather, grammar should be seen as "a series of options".

Grammar is not a series of options. There is correct standard English and there is bad English. If children want to use slang in the

street, then fine — but only if they know better. If they want to improve themselves, they need to know how to speak and write properly when the occasion requires. Immigrants well understand this. Most Asian parents would be appalled if they thought their children were not being taught good English. Foreigners are eager to learn the language, and would not be pleased to be told that "we was" and "we were" are the same.

To insist that all schoolchildren should know how to speak and write standard English is not elitist. It is the very opposite. Education is the best route out of deprivation; for many children the only one. What hope has an unemployed teenager of finding a job if he cannot fill in a form correctly or write a grammatical letter? The report suppressed by the government claimed that "he ain't done it" and "she come here yesterday" are "no more than a social irritant". Nonsense: they are a barrier to achievement.

Some educationists may regret that examiners and employers mind about grammar and spelling. They may see such concern as mere pedantry. But bad grammar is a sign of carelessness in the use of language, which denotes a lack of mental discipline in other areas. It is misguided and mischievous to abolish rigour of language in schools while it still exists in adult life.

Children will suffer if they are not taught rigorously. Opportunities will be denied them and they will be trapped by their own inarticulateness. Their loss will be the nation's too. As the English professor, Northrop Frye, once said: "There is only one way to degrade mankind permanently and that is to destroy language."

Passing judgment on Lord Lane

From Mr Ludovic Kennedy

Sir, As the judge who presided over the convictions of the Guildford Four and the Maguire Seven, resulting in years of wrongful imprisonment for all 11, Lord Donaldson is not best placed to express outrage at the recent criticisms of Lord Lane (report, April 16).

But I can tell him about those who do feel a sense of outrage. Truthful witnesses who appeared before Lord Lane in the 1987 appeal of the Birmingham Six and went away believing they had been branded as liars; the three QCs who represented the Six, Lord Gifford, Richard Ferguson and Michael Mansfield, whose well founded arguments for their innocence the court rubbishised; and above all the Six themselves, who, together with the Guildford Four and the Maguire Seven, served between them a total of nearly 50 years of wrongful imprisonment, mostly because of the inability of the judges to recognise corrupt prosecution evidence.

All expressions of outrage are understandable, but some rather less than others.

Yours etc.,
LUDOVIC KENNEDY,
Ashdown, Avebury,
Marlborough, Wiltshire.
April 17.

From Sir John Stephenson

Sir, His foes attribute to Lord Lane personal responsibility for the mistakes of juries and the sins of police officers — or at least for not discovering them.

They ignore the limits placed by Parliament on the powers of his court, and the participation of other independent-minded judges in the judgments which he pronounces. They disregard the countless cases in which he and his brother judges have done justice in a manner which even the media cannot fault; and they belittle the importance of the independence of the judiciary, which urgently required defending and fortifying in him an enthusiastic champion.

They thus vilify an outstandingly wise, kind, conscientious, acute and humane judge, not without experience of the real world in the Royal Air Force, at the Bar and on the Bench.

Long after the venomous darts hurled at him by the *Levins* and *Kennedys* are deservedly forgotten the name of Lord Chief Justice Lane will be remembered, both in and outside the profession he has adorned, with admiration and gratitude.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
JOHN STEPHENSON,
26 Doneraile Street, SW6,
April 12.

From Mr A. James French
Sir, The decision of the chairman of the Bar, Mr Gareth Williams, to waive his right to "speak in high places" who failed to support the retiring Lord Chief Justice (report, April 16) is perhaps predictable.

Nevertheless Mr Williams should have reflected upon the occasion (report, February 16, 1989) when Lord Lane laid the foundation stone for the new court house at Lincoln. Under that stone he interred a copy of Lord Mackay's green paper for reform, declaring this to be "one of the most sinister documents ever emanated from government", and a threat to the independence of both lawyers and the judiciary.

A calamity set in concrete.

Yours faithfully,
A. JAMES FRENCH,
40 Docking Road,
Ringstead, Norfolk.

Rights of audience

From Mr John Passmore

Sir, The proposed extension of rights of audience in the High Court to solicitors is subject to exceptions for good reasons (leading article, April 15). Solicitors and barristers in employment cannot be expected to observe an overriding duty to the court, necessary for the proper administration of justice, whilst maintaining a close relationship with the employer/client. Objectivity towards the client's case is surely easier when the client is not in charge of the advocate's overall career.

Inadvertent elevation of the duty to the client above the duty to the court is unlikely to be so obvious and clear-cut that disciplinary action by the Law Society could be effective.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PASSMORE,
Whimmed Lodge,
Tilford, Surrey.
April 15.

Smiling through

From Mr John Raybould

Sir, On Easter Saturday, while I was looking through the window of an estate agent in Saffron Walden, I saw an employee smiling. Is this the first sign of spring?

Yours truly,
JOHN RAYBOULD,
The Old Vicarage,
High Street, Newport,
Saffron Walden, Essex.
April 18.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Peanington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Doubts of Christian clergy on truth of the risen Lord

From Ms Aileen La Tourette

Sir, In today's editorial, "One church, one faith?", you refer to the Sea of Faith Network as "a body of clergy" who have claimed certain religious freedoms.

Sea of Faith is a network of individuals, non-denominational and non-creedal. We include members of the clergy and laity of the Church of England and other churches, as well as people who have no formal religious affiliation whatsoever. What brings us together is our interest, as encapsulated in our 1989 statement of intent, in "exploring and promoting religious faith as a human creation".

I would strongly emphasise the affirmative and creative aspect of our network. We have formed it precisely because we continue to find religious ideas meaningful and important. We are looking to find ways of building on the collective riches of traditional religious thought, and in time we very much hope this effort will include people from religious traditions other than the Christian one.

Our perspective is much broader, then, than you appear to realise. We are attempting to "resurrect" a sense of urgency and immediacy about religion and its importance in human life, both as a vehicle for awe and wonder and for the celebration of key social and spiritual values.

We began, as you rightly say, in the aftermath of Don Cupitt's *Sea of Faith* TV series and book, and we grew out of Don Cupitt's vision of a future for religious faith as something entirely human. But it cannot be emphasised too strongly that we are open to everyone interested in a human-centred attitude to religion, and we are certainly not — I speak as a lay woman whose own background is Roman Catholic — restricted to the clergy.

Yours sincerely,
AILEEN LA TOURETTE
(Chairman, Sea of Faith Steering Committee),
3 Leaburst Road, SE13,
April 20.

From Dr Catherine Jones
Sir, I watched the television programme, *Heart of the Matter*, on Easter Sunday with a growing sense of anger, not at the programme but

at some of its contributors. The costs of unbelief, personal and psychological, can come dear; but apparently not so — certainly not enough so yet — for members of the so-called Sea of Faith Network.

Not for them, it would seem, the pains of having to go without Communion and its companionship as a result of being unable, in all conscience, to continue to recite, for instance, the Nicene Creed. Having reduced the said creed to the status of an "epic poem" to their own satisfaction, wherein can the difficulty lie?

The difficulty, to put it most crudely, can lie in other people's contempt. The wages of unbelief are not supposed to be a continued salary from, for example, the Church of England — and a continued licence by the same token to assault the sensibilities and common sense of parishioners doomed to serve as sitting ducks until — who knows? — they have better luck next time.

Real unbelievers face up to their unbelief. They do not resort to elaborate metaphorical constructs picked out in psycho-babble to convince themselves and others that they still, really, belong, not merely to the company but indeed to the elders of the faithful. Real unbelievers would junk the salary and tied accommodation — and set about building their own church, or whatever symbolic construct was deemed most appropriate for their purposes.

So what are these dissidents? Unreal believers or unreal unbelievers? No wonder that Sea of Faith twists itself so readily into Faith at Sea.

Yours sincerely,
CATHERINE JONES,
48 Lonsdale Road, Oxford,
April 20.

From Mr Andrew Anderson
Sir, I am not a member of the Sea of Faith Network but I have friends who are, and I have contributed to its stimulating magazine.

What puzzles me is not who is right and who is wrong but why clergymen and women are inhibited from airing views in their parishes which they are actively encouraged to discuss during their training. If their opinions are destructive, why haven't the curricula of theological colleges

been changed? If they are not, why are so few senior churchmen springing to the defence of their pupils and proteges? There are quite a few bishops who were once theological college principals.

Ruth Gledhill's review (April 7) of Dr Paul Avis's book, *Authority, Leadership and Conflict in the Church*, quotes a reference in the Archbishop of York's foreword to "the requirement that leaders should have intellectual stature". Could one of the reasons a Decade of Evangelism is needed be that the laity — old hands and newcomers alike — have not been encouraged to think? The saddest casualty has been rational, calm debate.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW ANDERSON,
51 The Close, Norwich, Norfolk.
April 20.

From Mr G. A. H. Watts
Sir, Your leading article today does less than justice to what many Christians in this country believe.

It does not matter to our faith whether the resurrection was bodily or not, since our belief is in a spiritual resurrection: the release of Christ's spirit within us, after payment for our sins.

Yours faithfully,
G. A. H. WATTS,
Stroat House,
Stroat, Gloucestershire.
April 20.

From the Reverend Francis Pole
Sir, I am so sorry that you felt it necessary to record on the front page of Holy Saturday's edition (April 18) the sensationalist views of a small minority of cross-denominational clergymen regarding the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Sea of Faith Network is surely unrepresentative of the vast majority of the clergy who, like most Christians, regard the resurrection of Jesus as the greatest of all miracles, and the one which gives them meaning to this life and a sure hope of eternal life.

Yours faithfully,
FRANCIS POLE,
St Stephen's Vicarage,
Warwick Road,
Thornham Heath, Surrey.
April 20.

teach by universities in many countries.

As members of the international advisory council set up by the Dujcev centre and as officers of the Association Internationale des Etudes Byzantines we wish to express our alarm at the attack on the independence of the centre and on its director. We are well aware that democracy is not something that can be installed overnight, but we feel that these events break many of the rules essential for the development of a democratic society.

We remain, Sir, yours sincerely,
STEVEN RUNCIMAN,
ROBERT BROWNING,
CYRIL MANGO,
DIMITRI DOBOLSKY,
IHOR SEVCENKO,
Elshields,
Lockerbie, Dumfriesshire.

Prophetic text?

From the Reverend Dennis Parker

Sir, Your first leader (April 15) begins: "Rarely has an election result offered such cause for joy and bitterness." On election day our calendar has for the day's quotation from the Living Bible, "Many wept aloud while others were shouting for joy" (Ezra 3.12).

Insight, or prophecy?
Yours truly,
DENNIS PARKER,
Cleve House, Flint Hill,
Dorking, Surrey.
April 15.

Science budget

From Mr Alan Howarth, MP for Stratford-on-Avon (Conservative)

Sir, Professor Prichard's analogy between scouts and scientists (letter, April 16) is indeed apt. That is why the government has increased by 25 per cent since 1978-9 the resources provided to the research councils which enable them to support the ablest of our scientists in curiosity-driven research, and has announced plans to increase the figure to over 30 per cent by 1994-5.

Professor Prichard overlooks that and ignores also the private sector's growing support for scientific research. Instead he charmingly suggests that the government should increase its science budget by "only three or four times".

It is odd that, as a scientist, he should suppose that money grows on trees.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN HOWARTH,
House of Commons.
April 16.

A golden standard

From Dr Terence Barnett

Sir, I have received a notice of increase in the annual subscription for the Bournehouse and Poole Medical Society to £5 from its pre-war three guineas. What else has remained at pre-war cost till now?

Yours sincerely,
T. J. BARNETT,
92 Hinton Wood Avenue,
Highcliff, Dorset.



COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE

April 21: Today is the sixty-sixth Anniversary of the Birthday of The Queen.

The Hunt Mary Morrison has succeeded the Lady Abel Smith as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

April 21: The Prince Edward.

Birthdays today

Mr Leo Abse, former MP, 75; Lord Alton, 77; Sir Michael Atiyah, president, Royal Society, 63; Sir Christopher Ball, former warden, Kibble College, Oxford, 57; Mr Lewis Biggs, curator, Tate Gallery, Liverpool, 41; Mr Alan Bond, company chairman and yachtsman, 64; Mr Peter Bowring, former chairman, C.T. Bowring, 69; Mlle Yvette Chauviri, ballerina assoluta, 75; Mr George Cole, actor, 67; Mr Alan Dukes, former leader, Fine Gael Party, 47; Dr Eric Fentley, composer, 86; Mr Lloyd Honeyghan, boxer, 32; Mr Ronal Hynd, choreographer, 61; Mr Nico Ladenis, restaurateur, 58; Sir Yehudi Menuhin, OM, violinist, 76; Mr Jack Nicholson, actor, director and producer, 55.

Sir Sidney Nolan, OM, artist, 75; the Earl of Oxford and Asquith, 76; Miss Margaret Pereira, forensic scientist, 64; Viscount Portman, 58; Miss Janice Robinson, writer and broadcaster, 42; Professor Sir Eric Scowen, physician, 82; Mr David Summerscale, headmaster, Westminster School, 55; Sir Robert Wade-Gery, diplomat, 63.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Henry Fielding, novelist, Sharpshooter Park, Somerset, 1707; Immanuel Kant, philosopher, Königsberg, Germany, 1724; James Graham, poet, Glasgow, 1765; Madame de Staël, novelist, Paris, 1766; Phil May, cartoonist, Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire, 1864; Lenin, Ulyanov, 1870; Kathleen Ferrier, contralto, Higher Walton, Lancashire, 1912.

DEATHS: John Tradescant, traveller and gardener, London, 1622; James Hargreaves, inventor of the spinning mule, Nottingham, 1776; John Constable, landscape painter, Norwich, 1821; Thomas Rowlandson, caricaturist, London, 1827; Richard Trevithick, pioneer of the locomotive engine, Dartford, 1835; Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, prime minister 1905-08, London, 1908; Sir Henry Royce, car manufacturer, West Wiltshire, 1933; Roy Campbell, poet, Seabourne, Portugal, 1957.

Dinner

Royal Society of Medicine
Sir David Innes Williams, President of the Royal Society of Medicine, accompanied by Lady Innes Williams, presided at a dinner held last night at 1 Wimpole Street after Sir Roy Griffiths delivered the Jephcott lecture.

Among those present were Lord and Lady Porritt, Sir Anthony and Lady Jephcott, Sir Gordon and Lady Wolstenholme, Sir James Watt, and Mrs Watt, Lady Robinson, Sir Austin Bide.

Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Foundation, this afternoon left Royal Air Force Benson for a visit to Bermuda, Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago.

Mrs Richard Warburton and Lieutenant Colonel Sean O'Dwyer are in attendance.

Church news

The Right Rev John Kirkham, Bishop Suffragan of Sherborne, is to be Bishop to the Forces, from September 1, in succession to the Right Rev David Smith, Bishop Suffragan of Maidstone, who has been appointed Bishop of Bradford.

The Right Rev William Persson, Bishop Suffragan of Doncaster, diocese of Sheffield, is to retire as from December 31, when he will be aged 65.

The Right Rev Ronald Brown, Bishop Suffragan of Rotherham, diocese of Chester, is to retire on September 4.

Today's royal engagements

The Prince of Wales, as Patron of the Macmillan Nurse Appeal, will meet Macmillan nurses and patients at the radiation oncology unit at the Western General Hospital, Edinburgh, at 2.55 and will attend a performance of *Apollonia* at Yester House, Glasgow, at 7.30.

The Duke of York, as President of the St James's branch of the Royal British Legion, will attend a service at St James's, Piccadilly, at 3.00 to dedicate the branch standard.

The Princess Royal, as Patron of the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, will visit the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at Edinburgh University at 10.00; and will open the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland's new penguin enclosure at Edinburgh Zoo, Summerhall, at 12.15.

Princess Margaret will attend a concert by the National Children's Orchestra in York Minster in aid of the York Minster Trust at 6.55.

The Duke of Kent, as president of the RNLI, will perform the traditional ceremony of "RNLI Boat Boys" at Seamen Cove Lido, Cornwall, at 9.15.

The Duchess of Kent, as Patron of the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, will attend a fashion show at the Phyllis Court Club, Henley-on-Thames, at 6.50, in aid of the West Berkshire Appeal.

Gray's Inn

Professor David Edward, QC, a Judge of the Court of Justice of the European Communities, has been elected an honorary member of the Bench of Gray's Inn.

Care Ann Eborst has been elected a member of the Bench of Gray's Inn.

Luncheon

Luncheon Comment Club
Mr Alastair Stewart was the guest speaker at a luncheon of the Luncheon Comment Club held yesterday at the New Cornmarket Rooms. Mr Stuart Drummond, chairman, presided.



Two great family names of the British stage came together last night when Daniel Thorndike (left) and Corin Redgrave began a series of performances of *Love from Shakespeare to Coward*, an evening of verse, prose and theatrical anecdotes, at the Theatre Museum, Covent Garden

School announcements

Bedford High School

The Summer Term at Bedford High School begins today and ends on July 2. The Middle School play, *Puff 'n' Ernie*, a joint production with Bedford School, will be performed on May 6, 7, 8 and 9. The Guild Centenary celebrations will be held on May 8 and 9 at the High School. Parents should contact the Guild Secretary at the school for further information. The Junior School play, *Rats*, will be performed on July 24, 25 and 26. The Sixth Form Leavers' Ball will be held on June 25 at the Moor House Hotel, Bedford. Open Afternoon for girls joining the school in September 1992 and their parents will be held on the afternoon of Friday, June 19 (Junior School), Wednesday, June 24 (Senior School).

Chigwell School

Summer Term at Chigwell School starts today and ends on Tuesday, June 30. Speech Day and the Summer Ball will be held on Saturday, June 20. The Captain of Cricket is Giles Offen (Penr). The Summer Concert will be on June 29, and the Junior School play, *Penr*, will be performed on the night of May 13 to 16.

Halleybury and Imperial Service College

The Summer Term began yesterday, C.C. Fowkes (Halley) conducted a service of Commemoration in Cheltenham College Chapel at 11.00am on Saturday, May 16. There will be a Summer Concert on July 2. Speech Day is on May 23, when Lord Runcie will present the prizes. Old Kimboltonians' Day is June 20.

Linsboken School

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and Miss C.A. Frost
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Mr J.M.T. Charlesworth

and Miss N.L. James
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Bridge

Handley's double success

By ALBERT DORMER
BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH players repelled the traditional strong continental challenge in the Guards' Eastern Tournament at the Park Lane Hotel.

The Swiss team's event was won by the London-based team of Brian Callaghan, Rob Cliffe, Rod Eason and Al Woo, ahead of Schickel's German squad and competitors from ten other countries.

In the pairs championship, Ian Handley and Les Steele gained what could prove to be a significant success when they finished narrowly ahead of last year's winners, Brian Senior, whose partner was David Price, and 200 other pairs.

Handley, a freelance options trader, surrendered his international trials status during a particularly hectic spell but is now back in contention and could successfully pursue his claim.

His partner with one of Scotland's top performers comes just two weeks after his wife, Michelle Handley, turned in the best foreign achievement at the Pasadena Spring Nationals. Michelle Handley is training for this year's world Olympiad in Venice and since the couple stand level in the latest Brier Bridge in Britain ratings, rivalry could provide the needed spur to both.

On Monday, Michelle Handley, in company with Sandra Lundy, Liz McClelland and Sandra Lundy, improved on their Olympic prospect when they defeated Austria, led by continental Europe's leading woman player, Maria Erhard, by eight international match points over 50 rounds.

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OBITUARIES

BENNY HILL

Benny Hill, comedian, was found dead at his home in Teddington on April 20. He was 67 and had suffered a heart attack. He was born in Southampton on January 21, 1925.

BENNY Hill's humour was drawn from a number of sources, including music-hall and the silent cinema. He excelled both in mime and in clever word play. He also made great use of outrageous characterisation, employing all the worst and funniest of national traits from cross-eyed Orientals to belligerent Bavarians and could transform himself at will from a bashful choir-boy into a lascivious lout. He was the first British comedian really to harness the facilities of television to advance the art of comedy beyond the music hall stage without resorting to the dependence on the strong story-lines of the modern cinema. He pioneered the visual techniques of split screens and multiple appearances, playing all four members of the *Juke Box Jury* panel in one innovative 1961 take-off and in another taking 50 parts in one comedy playlet.

In essence Benny Hill animated for the small screen the bawdy tradition of the seaside postcard, with its jokes about bottoms and bosoms and hen-pecked husbands leering at pretty girls displaying their suspenders and stockings-tops.

He was often criticised by the more p-faced sectors of society for vulgarity and the "sexist" nature of his sketches, falling foul of the Broadcasting Standards Council and Mrs Mary Whitehouse and her campaign to clean up television. Nor did his penchant for scantily clad girls endear him to some of the more ardent feminists. He argued cogently, however, that in his sketches it was the men who lost their dignity rather than the women. Benny Hill never swore. Nor did he chase the girls in his sketches. The girls chased him. Whatever his critics said, for much of the viewing public both at home and abroad he was, year after year, just about the funniest man on television. He eventually became something of a cult figure in America and was revered by many of his showbusiness peers as one of the all-time masters of visual comedy, alongside Chaplin and Laurel and Hardy.

Benny Hill's persona was that of plumpish man with a moon face, a mischievous grin and the bearing of an overgrown schoolboy. The dirty joke and the rude rhyme were an essential part of his act, although they were usually conveyed by innuendo. The audience was left to pick up the double meaning while Hill protested wide-eyed innocence that anyone could misinterpret what he was saying. Hill was a master at leading his audience into naughty



thoughts before ending with a perfectly innocent line. "Two bishops in a bed. Which one wears the nightdress?" he would ask, then add: "Mrs Bishop."

He was a talented impressionist and one of the first comedians to make a feature of sending up other television shows. He also evolved his own comic characters, among them the lisping impresario, Fred Scuttee; Mr Chow Mein, the Chinaman with an accident-prone grasp of the English language; and the black-wigged madrigal singer, Herbert Fudge. He would play as many as 30 parts in one show. Hill took great delight in word play, showing great originality in his use of tongue-twisters and outrageous puns. But he believed that television humour should be primarily visual and many of his sketches were entirely without dialogue, comprising a non-stop succession of gags speeded up by the

camera and delivered to tinkling piano accompaniment after the style of the silent film.

Hill wrote his own scripts, at first in collaboration with Dave Freeman and later alone; he composed the music for his shows; and he was virtually the director as well, spending hours on one routine to perfect its pace and timing.

Benny Hill was born Alfred Hawthorne Hill of working class parents in Southampton. His interest in showbusiness may have come from his father, a former circus performer. After attending Taunton's School — where he was taught English by Horace King, later Speaker of the House of Commons — he left early, and was a weighbridge clerk in a coal yard, served in Woolworth's and became a milk roundsman. In his spare time he played the drums in a dance band. While still only 16 he was a

property boy and played small parts in a touring revue, later becoming stage manager. He got his first chance to appear on stage at the East Ham Palace. The comedian's stooge failed to appear one night and Hill went on in his place.

He developed as a performer in troop concerts during the second world war. He joined the army in 1942, serving for five years, the last of which he spent appearing in "Stars in Battle Dress". After leaving the army he went into variety, a tough but invaluable training ground. In a summer show at Margate he was straight man to Reg Varney, the cockney comedian later to star in *The Rag Trade* and *On the Buses*. In the immediate post-war years he made more than 200 broadcasts, performing on such shows as *Midday Music Hall*, *Starlight Hour*, *Anything Goes* and *Henry Hall's Guest Night* as well as at least one Royal Command performance. Early television success came when he was chosen to compete a forces show from the Nuffield Centre in the early 1950s. He was an immediate success with viewers, and within two years he had been given his own series, winning his first television personality of the year award in 1954.

Benny Hill was shrewd enough to realise that television performers can easily be over-exposed and outstay their welcome and he deliberately restricted himself to a handful of shows a year. In doing so he risked the opposite danger, that the public would forget him, but this never happened.

Once he was established his style and his routines varied little but he had an unfailing grasp of popular taste and even when he had been away from the screen for a long period he was able to pick up exactly where he left off. Scantily-clad girls known as Hill's Angels — were a fixture of the productions, usually displaying their stockings tops or their cleavage before the either risqué or mischievously innocent gaze of Hill and a cast of supporting character actors which he seldom changed. In addition to writing his own scripts he composed comic songs, several of which became hits, in particular "Ernie (the Fastest Milkman in the West)". The show's finale was almost always a speeded-up chase sequence in which Hill was pursued by a melée of women in varying states of attire, police, trait husbands and assorted animals and children, to the accompaniment of the Benny Hill theme tune.

Between 1968 and 1988 he made about 70 of the one-hour productions for Thames Television. The programmes were rarely out of the top ten ratings, winning the Bafta best comedy award in 1971, and were enormously popular world-

wide, being transmitted in such unlikely places as Angola, China and Russia. During the 1970s Hill was one of the few British comedians to be successful both in America and Europe. Compilations of sketches from his television shows were screened from coast to coast in the United States and enjoyed huge ratings.

Thames Television, however, was eventually cowed by the so-called anti-sexist lobby into dropping the comedian from its schedules. He was distressed by this snub. Recalling the moment, he said it happened at 10 am and he was out of the building by ten past. After more than 20 years it would have been nice, he added, to have had a "pat on the back". He was later to remark that in one "alternative comedy" act on television he had counted 91 swear words; yet he would get into "trouble simply for: 'looking at a girl and saying: 'Oh her dumplings are boiling over' ". During the following three years Hill made only one television programme — for American audiences.

Early in his career, in the 1950s, he appeared in two West End revues, *Paris By Night* and *Fine Fettle* but he then abandoned the theatre completely. In the 1960s he was in several films, among them *Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* and *The Italian Job*. Like other television comedians, though, he had less impact on the larger screen. In 1964 he made a single excursion into Shakespeare, playing Bottom in a television production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Unlike many fellow comedians Benny Hill never appeared to be weighed down by the responsibility of being funny. He enjoyed his craft, was a perfectionist in its practice but avoided taking himself too seriously. He was a cultivated man with wide interests. He travelled extensively and spent much time in France, speaking French with ease, as well as some German and Spanish. He had a reputation for being unfailingly courteous and caring. He never married and did his best to keep his private life private. In response to the perpetual enquiries, resulting from the fact that he was so often surrounded by pretty girls, he said he had had three serious attachments and in each his proposal of marriage had been rejected.

Despite being one of the highest paid entertainers in Britain, Hill lived simply. He had a London flat and a modest house in his home town of Southampton. He never owned a car and did his own shopping in the local supermarket. His passion was travel and wherever he went he was on the look-out for some quirk of human behaviour that could be worked into a gag for his next show.

JOHN TOMKINSON

John Tomkinson, CBE, secretary-general of the International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics, 1976-85, died on April 11 aged 76. He was born on March 8, 1916.



JOHN Tomkinson won for himself international recognition when he became, in 1976, secretary-general of the International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics (FIGO). The federation is responsible for organising the world congress in obstetrics and gynaecology every three years, each time in a different country.

Tomkinson gave lectures around the world, mainly on the subject of maternal death and was made an honorary fellow of gynaecological societies in America, Canada, Colombia, Nigeria, South Africa, Brazil, Jordan, Korea, Italy, Spain, Poland and Romania. From 1953 to 1979, when he retired from the NHS, he was obstetrician and gynaecological surgeon at Guy's Hospital, Queen Charlotte's Maternity Hospital and the Chelsea Hospital for Women.

Tomkinson went to Rydal School and studied medicine at the University of Birmingham School of Medicine, qualifying MB ChB in 1941. From 1942 to 1946 he served as a surgeon lieutenant, RNVF. When the war was over he returned to Birmingham and continued his studies in surgery and obstetrics and gynaecology. During this time he came under the influence of Dame Hilda Lloyd who was subsequently president of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. She had a reputation for surgical skill which she passed on to Tomkinson and for which he was later much sought after and admired.

In 1966 he became consultant adviser to the DHSS and was co-author of five editions of the Ministry of Health *Report on Confidential Enquiries into Maternal Death in England and Wales* from 1964 to 1978. Each edition found time for his family and to pursue his interest in the arts.

of all the maternal deaths for three years in England and Wales stating when the authors considered that avoidable factors were present due to errors on the part of the hospital, the doctor or the patient. The confidential enquiries began in 1952 and were one of the earliest examples of clinical audit on a national scale.

He served on the council of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists from 1960 to 1971, and was a co-opted member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England and deputy chairman of the Central Midwives Board. He was the only British member of the Continental Gynaecological Club of America and an enthusiastic member of the Gynaecological Club of Great Britain. In 1981 he was created CBE.

Tomkinson was a long distance runner in his youth and president of the Guy's Hospital Athletic Club. Later in life he became a keen angler, wading in the Spey in Scotland and fishing for trout on the banks of the Test in Hampshire where he had a cottage which incorporated a converted Methodist chapel.

In 1954 he married Barbara Pilkington of Eastbourne. They had two sons, Barnaby and Matthew and a daughter, Claudia (now Mrs Finlay). Barnaby was killed in an accident at the age of 29. In spite of his many commitments John Tomkinson managed to find time for his family and to pursue his interest in the arts.

APPRECIATION

Col Maurice Buckmaster

YOUR obituary of Maurice Buckmaster (April 20) omitted any mention of his political work.

The late Desmond Donnelly, former Labour MP (on the right of the party), gathered a group about him in 1969 and formed the Democratic Party. The founders of the party along with Donnelly were Air Vice-Marshal "Johnny" Johnson, one of the war's most distinguished heroes

(three DSOs and two DFCs — apart from a CB, a CBE and a host of foreign decorations), Anthony Cavendish and Maurice Buckmaster.

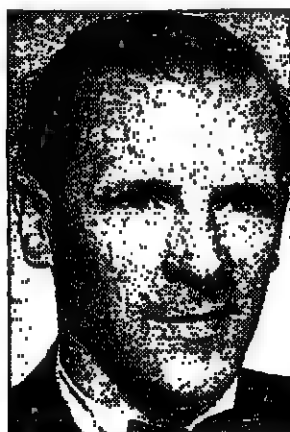
The first Democratic Party candidate was Sir George Fitzgerald, MC, (Knight of Kerry) who stood for Louth in a by-election in November 1969, which the Conservatives won.

The Democratic Party was more than ten years ahead of the SDP and was announced through the streets of Louth by Buckmaster and his fellow canvassers.

A. J. C.

T. LESLIE JACKSON

T. Leslie Jackson, television producer, died on April 7 aged 81. He was born in Manchester, on April 20, 1910.



T. LESLIE Jackson master-minded the popular television shows *What's My Line?* and *This Is Your Life*. Yet the success which both, in their different ways, achieved was by no means a foregone conclusion at the outset. The sometimes genial, sometimes peevish, interrogations by such panel members as Gilbert Harding and Margherita Laski in *What's My Line?* and the often emotional drama of *This Is Your Life* called for skilful handling. The BBC hierarchy of the 1950s was particularly hesitant about the latter, a frank import of American models which often trod the borders of tastelessness. But Jackson saw the show's potential, and his enthusiasm carried the day.

Under his guidance the show ran to seven highly successful series. Occasionally there were the unlooked for traumas — for example, when the night's celebrity found out that he was the "victim" and refused to cooperate, thus torpedoing that particular show. A notable such occasion was when the soccer player Danny Blanchflower took one look at Eamonn Andrews's red book and fled.

After leaving school at 14 T. (for Thomas, sometimes known as Terence) Leslie Jackson moved with his family from Manchester to Ireland, where he worked in a

four mill and boxed as an amateur before joining the Abbey Theatre, Dublin. Later he returned to Manchester to join the city's repertory company where he met Joanne Spoonly, whom he married in 1944.

During the war he served in the Royal Navy as a seaman on Murmansk convoys and then, after being commissioned, he commanded a tank landing craft in the Normandy landings. Later, he almost lost his life when a storm in the Irish sea devastated a landing craft flotilla carrying war materials for the war against the Japanese, sinking nine of the 12 vessels, including Jackson's.

In 1945 Jackson joined a company of ex-servicemen actors called John Fernald's Reunion Theatre, among them Kenneth More. From there he joined the BBC as a studio manager at Alexandra Palace, where he was involved in the early Richard Dimbleby magazine programme *London Town* as well as in musicals, variety and, later, drama.

In 1951 when the comedian Bernard Braden moved from radio to television, Jackson directed and produced *At Home With The Bradens*. In 1951, too, Jackson first met Eamonn Andrews. Together they devised *What's My Line?* of which Andrews became the regular chairman. Screened live on Sunday evenings, it was an immediate success. In 1956 Jackson launched *Call My Bluff*, chaired first by Robin Ray and later by Robert Robinson.

After his retirement Jackson did voluntary charity work for Moorfields Eye Hospital, trained television staff in Trinidad on behalf of the Ministry of Overseas Development, and liaised between the National Coal Board and the BBC and ITV on such productions as *The Corn Is Green* and *How Green Was My Valley*.

His three children inherited his and his wife's showbusiness talents. Their only daughter, Ceri, is an actress. Paul is a producer in commercial television and Sean plays Spanish guitar but works in catering.

ARTHUR CALDER-MARSHALL

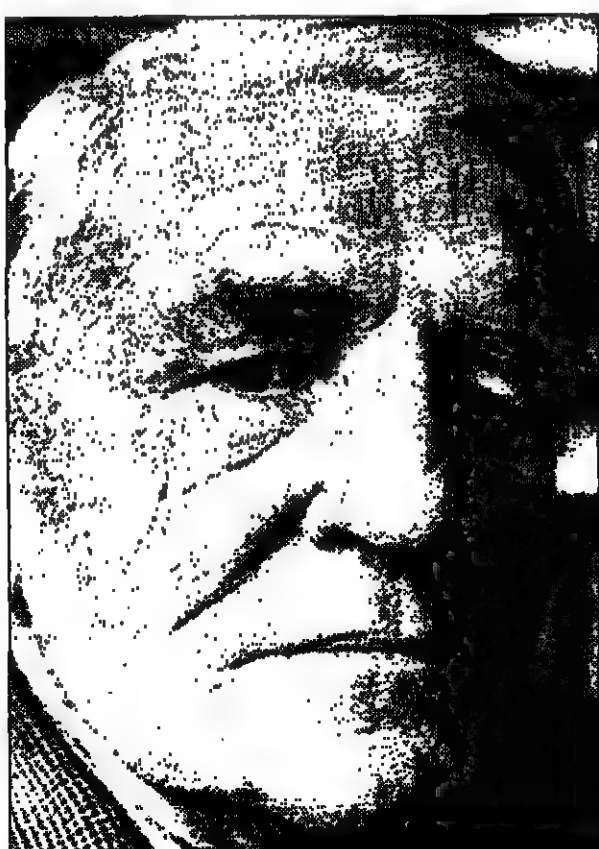
Arthur Calder-Marshall, novelist, biographer and memoirist died on April 17 aged 83. He was born at Wallington, Surrey, on August 19, 1908.

ARTHUR Calder-Marshall was an unusual and exemplary man and writer, whose best novels, although quite widely known and read, never received their full critical due. Of the five he wrote in the 1930s, at least three, *About Levy* (1933), *Dead Centre* (1935) and *Pie in the Sky* (1937), will surely be reassessed and reappraised for their technical mastery and originality. *At Sea* (1934), a kind of morality tale of two lovers on their honeymoon drifting in a boat, is in its way just as remarkable. His books for children, especially *The Fair to Middling* (1959), were outstanding and much enjoyed, as were his biographies and social commentaries. But as he himself wrote: "I have never written two books on the same subject or with the same object". The course he took, as he put it, was "torquous" and may have appeared "contradictory to others".

In his lifetime he never found his critic but perhaps this will now change, for there was nothing he deserved more. He wrote only one poor published book, the novel *Occasion of Glory* (1955), set in Mexico, a, for him, unsophisticated experimental portrayal of "an Indian who might be Jesus". But even this book provides an impressive illustration of what was most important to him.

He was unusual not only for his obstinate originality but also, and perhaps mainly, for his Christian principles. There was nothing at all "old fashioned" about the latter: on the contrary, to those who hardly knew him he could seem to be too cynical and worldly-wise. But this was just his finely developed sense of reality. Beneath a usually fairly urbane surface, he was a man always shocked at the modern world and its various crass dishonesties, and he tried to distance himself from his powerful and plain emotional reactions to these.

Only in *Occasion of Glory*



did he let the mask slip; he never allowed it to do so again. But, failure though it is in literary terms, the novel offers an important clue to his being. In all his other books, particular his non-fiction, his sense of humour is well to the fore. He was fascinated as well as horrified by evil, and his approach to it was peculiar to him and often particularly delightful.

In his fiction Arthur Calder-Marshall exposed moral enormities by a technique of objectification. In *About Levy*, Levy himself appears only in the responses which his trial for murder sets up in various people. Calder-Marshall's fictional masterpiece, *Dead Centre*, is divided into 67 first-person sections, leaving the reader to draw his or her own conclusions about the minor public school system they describe. Its counterpart was the Hogarth Press pamphlet *Challenge to Schools: A Pamphlet on Public School Education* (1935).

Arthur Calder-Marshall's father (also called Arthur) was a consultant engineer whose work took him frequently abroad. The family lived in a number of different places and it was not until Calder-Marshall junior was 15 that he settled down, in the market town of Steyning, Sussex. Arthur and his brother went to St Paul's School, London, living in their father's Bloomsbury flat in the week and spending the rest of their time at Steyning.

Calder-Marshall relates in his often-hilarious autobiography, *The Magic of My Youth* (1951), how in Steyning he became friendly with "Vickybird", Victor Neuburg, the decadent poet who was supposed to have been changed into a zebra by the "Great Beast", Crowley, but who in any case certainly published Dylan Thomas's first poems in the *Sunday Referee*. Later, at Hertford College, Oxford, Calder-Mar-

shall met the "Great Beast" himself, and was disgusted and disillusioned with his shabby magic.

Calder-Marshall had already decided on a literary life. He wrote some short stories and a novel which he immediately destroyed. After teaching at what he considered to be a very poor minor public school for a couple of years (1931-33), Calder-Marshall went free-lance, and in 1937 even tried screenwriting for MGM in Hollywood. After a year in the army he joined the film division of the Ministry of Information — his years there he described in *The Watershed* (1947). After the war he remained active as a journalist and broadcaster until his 70th year, when he published *The Two Duchesses*. Every job he did was well done: *Selected Writings of Tobias Smollett* (1950), *The Bodley Head Jack London* (1963-66) — he had written London's biography for children — and *The Lone Wolf* (1961).

Notable amongst his post-war books were his biography, *Havelock Ellis* (1959), a wise, witty and compassionate exercise which was superseded only because much more information later became available, and *Wish you Were Here* (1966), about the creator of the vulgar seaside postcard, Donald McGill.

Rupert Hart-Davis, called by many unhappy older authors "the last publisher who understood books", and one who, from his early days at Calder-Marshall, had published his extraordinary *No Earthly Command* in 1957. He was the only writer who might have been expected to write the strange story of Admiral the Reverend Alexander Hall Woodham Woods, who during the Battle of Jutland, "received an interposed message telling him to serve God". The classic books and others, deserve to enrich the lists of future publishers engaged in reissuing the best books of the past.

In 1934 Calder-Marshall married Violet Nancy Sales, by whom he had two daughters, one of whom is the actress Anna Calder-Marshall.

April 22 ON THIS DAY 1870

The difficulties that might arise were medicine to be taught in mixed classes were strongly voiced at this meeting of the general council of Edinburgh University.

THE FEMALE MEDICAL STUDENTS

The half-yearly meeting of the General Council of the University of Edinburgh was held on Tuesday, the Lord Justice-General (the Chancellor) presiding.

Professor Masson moved: "That, as the present arrangements for the medical instruction of women in the University impose great and unnecessary inconveniences on the women who are students and also on Professors, and may, if continued, even nullify the resolution of the University admitting women to the study of medicine, the General Council recommend to the University Court that women desiring to study medicine be admitted to the medical classes as other students are, and, on the same terms, except in cases where the Court may see special reasons why the instruction should be separate."

In supporting the motion, Professor Masson said that at the present moment the lady students were subject to great and unnecessary inconveniences. In the first place, they were subjected to great extra expense. In one of the classes, five ladies had to pay 50s. among them — a much larger sum than had to be paid by five male students. Then, it was found that they could not receive instruction in anatomy, that arrangements could not be made for that absolutely essential instruction, including the hire of rooms, and so on, at less than 100 guineas, if even for that, among the five.

Another inconvenience was that under the present arrangement ladies were subjected to the disagreeable labour of canvassing Professors in order to get instruction at all. Was that right? Was there any objection intrinsically to the proposal of mixed classes? He saw really none. Did not men and women go to church together? (Laughter.)

Professor Laycock moved as an amendment that Professor Masson's motion not be adopted. He said that Dr. Masson conceived that there would be no difficulty in women having instruction in the proposal of mixed classes? He saw really none. Did not men and women go to church together? (Laughter.)

It was said that male and female students sat together in Paris class-rooms, and persons who had been present reported that they had seen nothing objectionable. It occurred to him to ask, What did they expect to see? (A laugh.) The danger was not in the acts performed in the class-room, but in the thoughts that might be excited there.

Should they educate women in medical knowledge which they could prosecute when they were barely inclined? ("Oh, oh.") The ladies now attending the University had come with the purest motives; but how were they to ascertain when a Magdalene came to their classes? Should they be allowed to inquire into the characters of any women presenting themselves? One could say things to men separately, or to women separately, which one could not say to them when they were together.

On a division, Professor Laycock's amendment was carried by 58 to 47.

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THE TIMES BUSINESS

WEDNESDAY APRIL 22 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

MARTIN BEDDALL

Block on £116m payout causes hardship

Names suffer in deadlock on Outhwaite cash

By JONATHAN FRYN

HUNDREDS of Lloyd's names are facing new financial difficulties as a result of the continuing deadlock over the payment of the £116 million settlement of the Outhwaite court case.

The funds were paid to Richards Butler, the solicitor acting for the names, on the agreed date of April 8. However, a last minute legal threat from Lloyd's has prevented the firm paying out to names with unpaid losses on other syndicates. Lloyd's wants the Outhwaite settlement monies to be used to pay any unpaid cash calls before being paid to the names.

The settlement between 987 names on the loss-making Outhwaite syndicate and Lloyd's underwriters was announced in February after a four-month court case. The names are suing for negligence over asbestos-related losses of more than £200 million dating back to 1982.

Richards Butler has been told that it can pay out direct to names with no outstanding liabilities and whose members' agents have given the go ahead. However, up to 500 names must wait until at least early next month when Richards Butler will attempt to win a ruling in the Commercial Court that the names are entitled to the money. Interest on the £116 million is clock-

ing up at more than £30,000 a day and, according to Richards Butler will be held "for the benefit of whoever is entitled to the money".

Names contacted by The Times said that they were unable to pay lawyers' fees and were in breach of commitments given to banks as a result of the non-payment of the funds.

Lord Alexander of Tunis, one of the Outhwaite litigants, said he was waiting for payment of his £86,000 share of the settlement. Countless names were now unable to pay out on other financial obligations as a result of the delay in receiving cheques from Richards Butler he said.

Christopher Stockwell, a member of the committee of the Outhwaite 1982 Names Association, said: "Lloyd's intervention in the affair has been disgraceful." Names are upset that Lloyd's encouraged a settlement of the court action and only at the last minute moved to block the settlement payments. Some are also critical of Richards Butler's role and accused the firm of having "slipped up" in not negotiating a totally binding contract.

In a letter to the Outhwaite names posted before Easter, Richards Butler wrote: "We conclude by expressing our regret that these problems only arose at a very late stage and that we were unable to

resolve them before 8th April." Lloyd's has said that it regards its blocking of payments to names as "right and proper" and the fairest treatment for names who had met their obligations.

Most of the names worst affected by the hold up in the payment are members of the LMX spiral syndicates, and face huge cash calls.

Many of the names are expecting to lose their Lloyd's deposits this week after last week's failure of an action led by Michael Freeman, the lawyer, to win an injunction preventing Lloyd's from seizing their assets.

Members of the committee of the Gooda Walker Action Group, which represents about 3,000 names, were yesterday locked in meetings to consider further last-minute legal action to block Lloyd's.

However, Barry Marshall of Bankside members' agency, which represents some of the worst hit names, said yesterday that the firm was still considering its next course of action. The firm acts for the 400 names from the collapsed Line Street agency, which it acquired last year. Average losses for Line Street names exceed £500,000.

It is estimated that up to 4,000 names face ruin through their participation on the LMX spiral syndicates, which have combined losses of over £700 million.



Blooming prospects: Tony Acton plans to double the number of beds. "There is a huge need," he says

Nikkei falls below 17,000

FROM JOANNA PITMAN
IN TOKYO

AMID gloomy forecasts for the Japanese economy from government officials yesterday, the Tokyo stock market continued to fall and closed below the 17,000 mark, a level that had been considered as the bottom end of the market's decline.

The Nikkei 225 average dropped by 284.03 points to close at 16,787.33. "With no positive news and most foreign investors absent, the upside was limited, so investors chose to sell," Warren Primhak, of Baring Securities, said.

Traders reported that the weakness in the bond market, the depreciation of the yen, and the prospect of poor corporate earnings for fiscal 1991 had depressed sentiment. Volume was thin, estimated at 250 million shares.

Remarks by Yasushi Mieno, the Bank of Japan governor, yesterday did nothing to dispel the perception that Japan's financial condition is still ailing. The governor said that the economy needs more adjustment and is not yet poised to break out of its downward cycle. Demand is weak and companies are struggling to trim inventories, he said.

The central bank's policy of monetary easing, which has involved four cuts in the official discount rate since July, has been aimed at preventing the economy from degenerating into a wholesale recession, he said.

At the beginning of this month, an emergency package of economic rescue measures was announced, with the official discount rate cut 0.75 per cent to 3.75.

Stock markets, page 18

GPA chief could net £21 m in flotation

By MARTIN WALLER

TONY Ryan, founder and chairman of GPA, the aircraft leasing company, stands to receive a £21 million windfall under proposals put to existing shareholders to assist this summer's planned £1.7 billion stock market flotation.

Among resolutions to be put to an extraordinary meeting on May 12 is one to convert the company's nine million A shares, all held by Mr Ryan, into ordinary shares ahead of the float. The A shares pay a special dividend linked to profits, and GPA has decided that Mr Ryan, already one of Ireland's richest men, must be compensated for the loss of this income.

Sir John Harvey-Jones, deputy chairman, has asked Schroders, the merchant bank, which is an adviser to the British end of the float, to assess the amount of compensation. Schroders' valuation is based on forward profit estimates. A sum of \$36.8 million has been agreed between the bank and the remuneration committee, led by Sir John.

Mr Ryan also owns almost 10 per cent of the company, but has pledged not to sell any of this holding during or after the float.

GPA and its advisers are trying to counter criticism of the flotation plans from existing shareholders and potential institutional investors. The group has denied reports that Japanese investors who bought in at higher levels than the estimated \$25 the shares would fetch in the float are angry and could block the issue.

GREENACRE, which operates nursing and residential care homes, unveiled a 70.5 per cent profits jump, along with plans to double the number of beds this year.

Pre-tax profits at the USM-quoted group surged to £913,160 in the year to January 31, up from £535,521 last time. Turnover, boosted by acquisition, advanced to £3.03 million (£2.18 million).

The number of homes increased from three to seven. Tony Acton, chairman, said: "There is a huge need." The group has £4 million to spend on acquisitions and development and hopes to add 360 beds this year.

The final dividend is maintained at 0.125p, giving 0.25p for the year (0.325p). The shares advanced 2p to 9p.

Healthy growth at Greenacre

By PHILIP PANGALOS

Troubled O&Y seeks £110m from angry City bankers

By NEIL BENNETT

OLYMPIA & York, the troubled Canadian property group, is asking City bankers for emergency finance by the end of the week to help relieve its growing liquidity squeeze.

Steve Miller, a key adviser to O&Y who is leading the £12 billion debt restructuring, is holding meetings with key British banks, including Barclays and Lloyds, to try to organise a new loan.

O&Y needs £110 million to fund the Canary Wharf development in London's Docklands for three months while it draws up details of the restructuring.

Bankers, however, are angry at the limited financial information offered by the company. They are refusing to agree a new loan unless Mr Miller, who flew to London from Toronto, and his colleagues produce a long-term recovery plan. "We are not going to write blank cheques or get further into this thing without seeing how it is all going to end," one said. "O&Y must come up with a longer view than just saying it needs this payment."

The group's call for more cash comes less than a month

after Barclays and Lloyds arranged a £54 million syndicated loan to fund Canary Wharf.

Sources close to O&Y confirmed that the group needs to start drawing on a new loan by the end of the month. O&Y is also asking for a £375 million (£37 million) loan to fund its Canadian operations, and hopes to complete this within a week.

Michael Dennis, the head of O&Y's British operations, has flown to Brunei to try to sell a 50 per cent stake in the Canary Wharf Tower to a consortium of investors. The disposal, if successful, could raise up to £250 million, ease

O&Y's liquidity problems and increase confidence among company executives and bankers about the quality of the group's assets.

The Canary Wharf tower, Europe's tallest building, is an ideal candidate for disposal. It is half let, so there would be an immediate income stream for any co-owner. O&Y has already arranged the sale and leaseback of two other buildings in the Canary Wharf development.

Citicorp, America's largest bank and among those with the greatest exposure to O&Y, increased its loan loss reserves by \$326 million \$3.1 billion in the first three months of this year (Philip Robinson writes).

Reserves for losses on consumer loans rose \$78 million to \$1.2 billion and those on commercial debts by \$248 million to \$1.9 billion. The bank says non-performing assets remained flat at around \$7.9 billion. A \$463 million loss was made on North American property between January and March. Net profits, however, almost doubled from \$93 million to \$183 million.



Miller: in London

Comment, page 19

Euro Disney analysts not amused

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

EURO Disney's share price has had as many bumps as one of its roller coasters in the past month, as financial markets take fright at the prospect that the theme park outside Paris could prove a damp squib after all.

Analysts in London believe attendance rates have been disappointing. This disappointment has been reflected in the share price, which has fallen 21 per cent over the last month amid concerns that Europeans might turn up their noses at Europe's largest leisure project. The shares fell yesterday, closing 20p lower at £13.15.

Simon Woodcock, Euro Disney analyst for Nikko Europe, the securities house, said the general feeling so far had been one of disappointment, especially about attendance figures and the length of queues. The response from Euro Disney was that "we never communicate atten-



A bumpy ride in Paris

dance figures". As a result, financial analysts are left with only anecdotal evidence. This is not encouraging. Another disgruntled analyst told the story of a day out at Euro Disney. He arrived at the gate, after his Parisian taxi driver got lost twice on

way from the airport. "I had a little rucksack, with a camera and a few lenses. The security guard asked me: 'Do you mind if we search your bag?' I said: 'Not at all, are you looking for bombs?' He said: 'No, I am searching for sandwiches.'"

Unaccustomed to being accused of carrying sandwiches in his rucksack and daunted by the prospect that the guards perform tens of thousands of rucksack searches every day, the man from the City—upon whose recommendations millions may be invested—spent the rest of the day having a thoroughly bad time. He queued for 35 minutes for a Mexican takeaway, at which point the idea of taking one's own sandwiches suddenly made sense. He later queued for 55 minutes for one of the free roller coasters. The ride took five minutes.

His tale might or might not be typical but it reflects a concern that Euro Disney

might fail to meet its target of 11 million visitors a year and that potential visitors might stay away.

Such talk is dismissed at Euro Disney. A spokesman said he would rather have long queues than nobody at the turnstiles, insisting attendances were good, especially from Britain, Germany and Italy. He admitted there were not too many Parisians, but Parisians had been told by their government to wait a little to avoid traffic chaos.

Still, Euro Disney has not been able to convince the markets that it has all been worthwhile. Ten days after the opening, one of the few people who can take comfort must be the French news magazine columnist who called on his fellow countrymen to burn the place down. Who knows, the free market might, after all, prove to be a more powerful weapon against the alleged intrusion of American "culture" than arson could ever be.



Not all exchange
rates fluctuate.



TODAY IN BUSINESS

IN FAST LANE

Inchcape

Inchcape, the worldwide timber to motor distribution group, is powering on after the handover from Sir George Turnbull to Charles Mackay
Page 19

FAILURES RISE

The number of company failures rose by a third in the first quarter, according to a review by KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock
Page 17

STRONG BREW

Charlotte Beers is shaping up to her new role as the most powerful woman, and one of the best paid, in American advertising
Page 21

TROUBLED MILL

Executives of Nucor, the American steel company, are visiting Ravenscraig, but their interest may come to nothing
Page 17

COLD CALLING

Shares in Vodafone leapt 60p in the wake of the Tory victory but prospects for the mobile telephone industry are uncertain
Tempos, page 18

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7507 (+0.0037)
German mark 2.9144 (+0.0013)
Exchange index 91.7 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2047.6 (-11.6)
FT-SE 100 2625.8 (-12.8)
New York Dow Jones 3330.05 (-6.26)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 16787.33 (-284.03)

INTEREST RATES

London:
£ \$1.7483
£ DM2.9180
£ Sfr2.7038
£ FFfr8.8599
£ Yen234.55
£ Index 91.7
ECU 80.703472
ECU 1.421520
New York:
£ \$1.7480
£ DM1.6965
£ Sfr1.5473
£ FFfr8.8410
£ Yen234.21
£ Index 95.1
SOR En/a
SDR/a
London forex market close

CURRENCIES

London: Bank Base 10 1/2%
3-month interbank 10 1/2-10 3/4%
3-month eligible bills 10 3/4-11%
US: Prime Rate 6 1/2%
Federal Funds 3 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 3.69-3.67%
30-year bonds 100-100 1/8%

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$339.20 pm \$338.30
close \$337.80-339.30 (£193.00-193.50)
New York:
Covey \$338.75-338.25

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (May) \$19.05 bbl (\$19.05)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 136.7 March (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price

Banks sue Andersen over role at Magnet

By Neil Bennett, Banking Correspondent

BANKERS Trust, the American bank, yesterday confirmed that it and nine other banks are suing Arthur Andersen, the accountant, for negligence over the management buyout of Magnet, the kitchen and bathroom retailer, in 1989.

In a withering attack on the banks, Roy Chapman, Andersen's managing partner, dismissed the action as bordering on fantasy and said the losses should be borne by the lenders.

A spokesman for Bankers Trust said a writ had been issued against Andersen last week claiming damages for negligence and breach of contract.

The £229 million Magnet buyout was one of the worst-timed financial transactions in the eighties. It was completed as Britain's economy was starting to turn down and ran into financial trouble almost immediately. The banks have since been forced to refinance the company several times.

Bankers Trust was the lead bank in the buyout. Others in the action are thought to include Standard Chartered, Lloyds, Hill Samuel and Bank of Scotland. "This

claim borders on fantasy and we shall resist it strongly," Mr Chapman said. "The villains of this piece are not the accountants but those who were falling over themselves to finance the deal."

Andersen's work had included neither audit nor due diligence. Institutions that had lost money in a high-risk venture were turning to accountants for restitution on the "deep pockets theory".

"We do not intend to retreat in the face of intimidation," Mr Chapman said. "Any losses from the buyout transaction must be borne by those responsible for them."

Part of the action will turn on Andersen's role in the buyout. Andersen yesterday said it had acted for the negotiators and prepared financial reports for them. Bankers Trust, however, claimed that Andersen had been retained by the banks as an investigative accountant.

Both Andersen and Bankers Trust are already defendants in an action launched by GE Capital Corporate Finance Group, another investor in the Magnet buyout, which issued writs against them last September.



Cash on his mind: Sir Alastair Morton awaits the right time to ask again

Hanson 'not pushed' into change

By Martin Waller

HANSON, the industrial conglomerate, has denied that pressure from institutional shareholders prompted the appointment of a chief executive — the first in the company's history.

Derek Bonham has been named as the man who will take much of the day-to-day running of the group off the shoulders of Lord Hanson, the chairman. Lord Hanson retains control over strategic planning.

The company has made it clear that Mr Bonham is not to be seen as the automatic

successor to Lord Hanson's retirement. Sir Christopher Harding, chairman of the Hanson compensation committee, said: "A decision regarding the appointment of Lord Hanson's successor will be made by the board nearer the time of his retirement in 1997."

Martin Taylor, a Hanson vice-chairman, said the company was aware that institutional opinion increasingly favoured splitting the roles of chairman and chief executive in large groups. About half of Britain's 100 biggest companies had al-

ready done that. As far as he knew, however, no Hanson shareholder had pressed for the appointment of a chief executive. There have been reports that some institutions favoured a change at Hanson.

"This is the way we think the business should be run, and we think it's appropriate to do it now," Mr Taylor said.

Hanson has replaced Mr Bonham as group finance director with William Landy, formerly chief financial officer of Hanson Industries, the American arm.

Eurotunnel plays down talk of cash call

By Martin Waller

EUROTUNNEL has played down suggestions that it will announce a further rights issue together with 1991 results on Friday. But it is thought that shareholders will be warned that new funds could be needed eventually. A spokeswoman suggested that predictions of a cash call should not be relied upon. Instead it is likely that the 1991 figures from Sir Alastair Morton, chief executive, will be accompanied by a detailed project review and a progress report of the negotiations with the contractors.

In addition, Eurotunnel is thought likely to indicate that it will have to tap shareholders for more money, but that this will probably not be necessary until the tunnel has opened in late 1993. It is expected that the project's bankers will insist on some of the burden being carried by shareholders.

Eurotunnel has a two-year window between tunnel opening and the period of maximum indebtedness when it can go to the stock market with detailed traffic figures to ask for further cash.

The market believes that the size of any settlement with the contractors and lost revenue from the delayed opening have narrowed the margin between the eventual cost of the £8 billion-plus project and the £3.9 billion funding raised so far. Eurotunnel said in February that sufficient funds to complete are available.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Venture Plant shares halted for takeover

SHARES in Venture Plant were suspended on the Unlisted Securities Market yesterday at 8.15p ahead of a "substantial acquisition" that is hoped will transform the ailing plant hire group's fortunes. It is believed that Venture will buy a materials handling business linked to the mining industry for £13 million.

At its suspension price, Venture is worth £2.3 million, so any deal would effectively be a reverse takeover engineered by Richard Cameron and Brian Thompson, who moved in as joint chief executives last year. Venture floated in 1988 valued at more than £50 million, but within two years was reporting losses and cutting dividends and the shares began the slump from their high of 118p. In December, the group reported half-year losses of £5.15 million and said the support of its bankers depended on rationalisation.

Ransomes pays out

RANSOMES, the lawn mower group, will pay the next instalment on its convertible preference shares on April 30. In March, the group reported 1991 pre-tax losses of £4.5 million, compared with a £9.1 million profit the previous year. The final dividend, like the interim, was passed and it was doubtful whether dividends on convertible preference shares would be paid. The company said results and order intake so far this year gave it sufficient confidence to pay the preference dividend. The ordinary shares rose 4p to 28p.

Avonmore expands

AVONMORE Foods, the Irish dairy and foods group, is expanding its meat division with the acquisition of the meat processing plants of UMP Group from the receiver for £5.5 million (£5 million). Avonmore, which has a strong position in pigmeat processing in Ireland and pigmeat and sheepmeat processing in the United Kingdom, is buying UMP's operations at Ballyhaunis, Co Mayo, Ballaghaderreen, Co Roscommon, Camolin, Co Wexford and Sligo. Avonmore plans to develop the plants.

Skandia sticks to offer

SKANDIA, the Swedish insurer, said it had no plans to raise its bid for Denmark's Hafnia despite protests from Hafnia shareholders that the bid was too low. "Skandia has put forth a realistic bid and I think it will remain," said Gösta Stenberg, a Skandia spokesman. He added Skandia executives would meet Hafnia shareholder representatives soon. Skandia has offered nine of its shares for every four Hafnia A shares or every five B shares. Some Danish institutional holders of Hafnia shares have opposed the deal.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Unit	Offer	Price	Yield	Unit	Offer	Price	Yield	Unit	Offer	Price	Yield	Unit	Offer	Price	Yield
ABBEY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS				ABBEY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS				ABBEY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS				ABBEY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS			
Abbey Bond	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Bond	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Bond	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Bond	100.00	100.00	0.00
Abbey Equity	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Equity	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Equity	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Equity	100.00	100.00	0.00
Abbey Income	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Income	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Income	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Income	100.00	100.00	0.00
Abbey Property	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Property	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Property	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Property	100.00	100.00	0.00
Abbey World	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey World	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey World	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey World	100.00	100.00	0.00
Abbey US	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey US	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey US	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey US	100.00	100.00	0.00
Abbey Japan	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Japan	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Japan	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Japan	100.00	100.00	0.00
Abbey Europe	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Europe	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Europe	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Europe	100.00	100.00	0.00
Abbey Asia	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Asia	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Asia	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Asia	100.00	100.00	0.00
Abbey Africa	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Africa	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Africa	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Africa	100.00	100.00	0.00
Abbey Australia	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Australia	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Australia	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Australia	100.00	100.00	0.00
Abbey New Zealand	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey New Zealand	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey New Zealand	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey New Zealand	100.00	100.00	0.00
Abbey South America	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey South America	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey South America	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey South America	100.00	100.00	0.00
Abbey Middle East	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Middle East	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Middle East	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Middle East	100.00	100.00	0.00
Abbey Europe	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Europe	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Europe	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Europe	100.00	100.00	0.00
Abbey Asia	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Asia	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Asia	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Asia	100.00	100.00	0.00
Abbey Africa	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Africa	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Africa	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Africa	100.00	100.00	0.00
Abbey Australia	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Australia	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Australia	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Australia	100.00	100.00	0.00
Abbey New Zealand	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey New Zealand	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey New Zealand	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey New Zealand	100.00	100.00	0.00
Abbey South America	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey South America	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey South America	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey South America	100.00	100.00	0.00
Abbey Middle East	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Middle East	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Middle East	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Middle East	100.00	100.00	0.00
Abbey Europe	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Europe	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Europe	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Europe	100.00	100.00	0.00
Abbey Asia	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Asia	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Asia	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Asia	100.00	100.00	0.00
Abbey Africa	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Africa	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Africa	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Africa	100.00	100.00	0.00
Abbey Australia	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Australia	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Australia	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Australia	100.00	100.00	0.00
Abbey New Zealand	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey New Zealand	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey New Zealand	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey New Zealand	100.00	100.00	0.00
Abbey South America	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey South America	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey South America	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey South America	100.00	100.00	0.00
Abbey Middle East	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Middle East	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Middle East	100.00	100.00	0.00	Abbey Middle East	100.00	100.00	0.00
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Receiverships soar 31% to record

BY NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE number of companies that went into receivership rose 31 per cent to a record 1,362 in the first quarter of the year, according to a survey by KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock, the accountant.

Last year, the number of receiverships levelled off at 1,000 per quarter, but the situation has worsened again.

In previous recessions, receivership numbers have risen as the economy has started to recover. Tim Hayward, head of Peat Marwick's corporate recovery division, said, however, that these figures were the result of the continuing downturn rather than recovery. He hoped the Con-

servative election victory would stimulate retail spending and industrial expansion.

"I do not have a well-polished crystal ball so the indications of an upturn in the last few days could be a blip or the start of a sustained upturn," he said. "Things are grim but I think businesses have been holding off their investment plans because of the election uncertainty. A lot of these plans are now being released."

Peat Marwick's figures also show how the effects of recession have spread throughout Britain. The highest increase in receiverships was in Scotland, which has so far weath-

ered the worst effects of the economic downturn. The number of companies going into receivership there rose to 71, up 122 per cent on a year ago.

The brunt of the damage, however, is still being borne by southeast England, where 721 companies went into receivership, a third higher than in the first quarter of last year. Receiverships fell slightly in Wales and southwest England.

Peat Marwick's figures also showed a sharp rise in receiverships in the service industries, including retailing and hotels. The proportion of failures from the retailing sector rose from 7.8 per cent to 10.4 per cent, while from hotels and catering companies it reached 7.2 per cent, up from 5.2 per cent. Many of these companies had been relying on a successful Christmas to improve their finances and were forced into receivership when it did not materialise.

The financial services industry has also been badly hit. Financial businesses accounted for 16.9 per cent of all receiverships, up from 12.6 per cent a year ago. This means the sector has overtaken the construction industry as the second-largest area for receiverships.

Manufacturers, however, are still being worst hit and accounted for almost a quarter of all failures, down from 28.7 per cent in the first three months of last year.

Time marches back to show a profit

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

TIME Warner, the world's largest entertainment company, inched back into the black for the first three months of this year.

Music, cable television and a cut in interest payments on its \$8.7 billion debts lifted the company out of the red.

Time Warner is attempting to establish a beachhead in Britain by linking with a consortium to bid for Channel 5. It already has a 35 per cent interest in Classic FM, which

is due to begin broadcasting this autumn.

Analysts were told yesterday that prospects for the group continue to look good.

For the first quarter, it made a \$3 million profit on turnover of \$3 billion, compared with a \$50 million loss on a \$2.8 billion turnover for the same period a year ago. Films benefited from JFK, which the studio says has grossed \$160 million worldwide so far.

Doubts increasing over Ravenscraig rescue bid

BY MARTIN WALLER

A TEAM from Nucor, the American steel producer, yesterday started a two-day visit to the doomed steelworks at Ravenscraig, near Glasgow, as doubts mounted over whether a rescue bid would be forthcoming.

Scottish Enterprise, the renamed Scottish Development Agency, which arranged the visit, refused to comment.

The executives from Nucor, which is based in Indiana, would only say they would also visit the Hunterston oil terminal 60 miles away on the west coast, which is used to import the raw materials for Ravenscraig, before leaving on Sunday.

The agency, which took on the job of marketing Ravenscraig to potential buyers

once British Steel decided to close it this September at a cost of 1,200 jobs, first contacted Nucor some months ago. Scottish Enterprise is having to walk a fine line between building up hopes that the plant can be saved and being too downbeat — and therefore putting off any other potential purchaser.

But it is thought that while the agency did talk to a number of other steelmakers around the world, no other visits to Ravenscraig have taken place, or are planned.

Nucor has said it will not take on the entire operation and is in any event involved in a different form of steel-making, producing slabs from scrap using an electric furnace. That process, based on German technology imported into America, offers operating costs \$100 a tonne lower than in traditional steelmaking methods.

But it is a low-cost, low-quality process, with a limited market. There was doubt in the City yesterday whether there was any advantage to the Americans in taking over any of the plant.

One analyst, who did not wish to be named, said the Scottish site was too far from the main markets for steel. "You wouldn't really have much of an advantage. You aren't in the centre of things by any means," he said. "I think it will prove to be a damp squib. I don't think people should really build up their hopes that this will save jobs in Ravenscraig, because I think it is inevitable that the plant will close."

The Americans are known to be keen to wrest attractive incentives from the government to move to Ravenscraig as a springboard for European expansion. The eventual resolution is therefore likely to depend on what development grants and assistance can be negotiated.

US duties could herald steel war

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

EUROFER, the European Steel Industry Federation, said last week's threat from Washington of anti-dumping duties on the products of specialist EC steelmakers could be the first shot in a transatlantic steel trade war.

Eurofer says the American industry is preparing 70 steel trade suits against the EC. They concern flat steel products made by all the Community's big steel companies.

The complaint made by Washington last week concerns 100,000 tons of lead-coated steel bars exported to America every year by four specialist steel concerns, including Britain's United Engineering Steels. It has fuelled growing mistrust between Washington and Brussels on trade matters, against the background of the frustrated Gatt talks.

The US International Trade Commission will rule on the lead-coated steel bars in May. If it finds they have been unfairly subsidised, United Engineering's products will face 53 per cent anti-dumping levies and additional 10 per cent countervailing taxes. The big six American steel producers, including

Bethlehem Steel and Inland Steel, that launched last week's complaint, were due to meet their lawyers yesterday to decide a timetable for filing the suits being considered.

The trade commission must decide whether American interests are being unfairly harmed within 45 days of a suit being filed. A decision on anti-dumping duties must be taken within 160 days.

The European Commission is confident that the Community's steelmakers have done nothing wrong, and is prepared to take the issue to a Gatt panel in Geneva.

Eurofer points out that the Community's steel exports to America constitute only 70 per cent of its quota under recently expired voluntary restraint agreements. The market share of EC steel products in America is down to 16 per cent. In 1982 and 1984, it was nearer 26 per cent.

A Eurofer spokesman said: "Since October 1982, we have strictly followed the quotas laid down by the voluntary restraint agreements. If the trade commission decides there's material injury, it is not a fair tribunal."

Aran buys in North Sea

Aran Energy, an oil and gas exploration company based in Dublin, is paying \$26.4 million for a one-third stake in an oilfield owned by Chevron. Aran Energy Exploration is buying Chevron UK's 33.33 per cent interest in North Sea block 211/24A.

The purchase includes Chevron's interest in the

Dunlin oil field, operated by Shell UK, and the associated share of the Brent pipeline system.

The consideration may be reduced, to a minimum of \$19 million, to take account of any outstanding commercial issues that could result in additional economic benefits to Aran.

'Slim' hope of world trade pact

BY COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE European Community and America have only a "slim" chance of a political breakthrough over the stalled world trade talks when leaders meet in Washington today, according to Anibal Cavaco Silva, the Portuguese prime minister and holder of the rotating Community presidency.

Senhor Silva's assessment, made public before he left Lisbon for America yesterday, was consistent with comments from both sides of the Atlantic intended to dampen hopes that the mini-summit would inject fresh impetus into the Uruguay round on liberalised world trade, possibly allowing an accord to be initiated by the summer.

Pressure on Brussels and Washington to make a breakthrough in the crucial area of farm subsidies has intensified over the past week, not least because of widespread concern about the damage to confidence, investment and jobs that failure could wreak.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development lent fresh weight to the case for an early deal in a report issued yesterday.

The paper says the partial trade reform forecast in the draft final act of the Uruguay round would add an annual \$195 billion, or half the income in China, to world income. Over \$90 billion of the extra income would accrue to the developing countries and the former Soviet bloc economies. The study says that failure to reach an agreement "poses a threat not only to



Slow going: Carla Hills, US trade representative, spoke of lack of progress

economic recovery and global equity, but also to peace in the world."

Trade liberalisation is expected to benefit western Europe and Japan more than other regions, the paper concludes. If accepted, the draft final act of the Uruguay round would raise national income in these regions by about 1 per cent a year by the year 2002.

Senhor Cavaco Silva, who will accompany Jacques Delors, the European Com-

mission president, at a two-hour meeting with President George Bush, said discussions would focus on effort to save the trade talks.

He stressed that it would not be the final showdown, but was a "slim chance" to give the talks political momentum. He said it would be "very hard" to conclude an agreement by the end of June.

A spokesman for M Delors also made clear yesterday that there was nothing that pointed to the positions of Brussels and Washington coming closer together.

Carla Hills, the American trade representative, earlier indicated that preparatory meetings for today's session made no progress, even though Community officials are now talking in terms of only a "couple of million tonnes of grain" separating the American and European positions.

EC reviews brewing merger

The European Commission is to review plans by Allied-Lyons and Carlsberg to merge their British brewing businesses, to see whether they contravene European Community merger rules.

This £510 million joint venture is already being investigated by the monopolies commission in Britain.

EIS warning

EIS Group marked its twenty-first year of unbroken growth in profits and dividend with a warning that 1992 will be difficult. Pre-tax profits in 1991 rose from £13.5 million to £14.4 million and the total dividend goes up from 11.4p to 11.7p.

Tempus, page 18

Ropner falls

Ropner's pre-tax profits slipped 4.7 per cent last year to £5.27 million. Turnover declined to £14.6 million (£35.4 million). The final dividend is 4.75p, making 3.25p same.

Amaz slumps

Amaz, the American metals and energy group, reports first-quarter earnings from operations of \$9.1 million for 1992 (\$80.8 million). Net quarterly profit was \$12.2 million (\$32 million).

Gilts auction

The Bank of England is auctioning Treasury notes worth £2.5 billion next Wednesday, the largest offer since the Bank restarted funding operations last year. The gilts, with a 8.75 per cent coupon, mature in 2017.

Comment, page 19

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THE SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INSTITUTION

The 154th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INSTITUTION will be held on WEDNESDAY, 20 MAY 1992 at 12.30 p.m. in the HEAD OFFICE, 6 ST ANDREW SQUARE, EDINBURGH.

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from this address.

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22 April 1992



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STOCK MARKET

American selling hits drugs sector

THE pharmaceutical sector suffered a mauling in the wake of heavy selling of shares in American drug companies over the weekend on Wall Street.

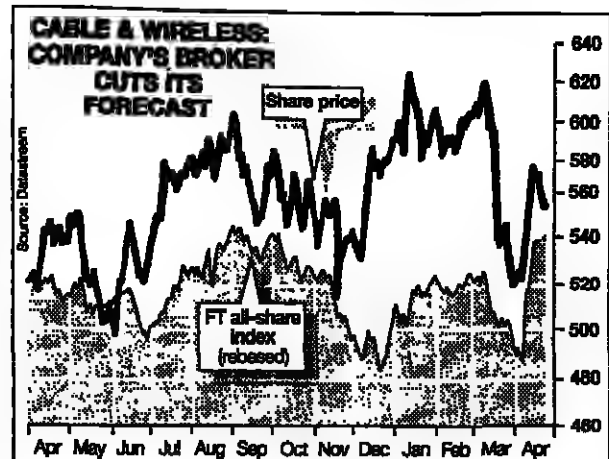
Dealers said that the mark-down of pharmaceutical shares in London accounted for about half of the market's total fall, which saw the FTSE 100 index lose 12.8 points at 2,625.8, having been 23 points lower at the opening.

Recent disappointing figures from companies such as Merck, showing a slowing in earnings growth, have upset American investors, who are switching from the traditionally defensive pharmaceuticals area to the more cyclical industries as hopes grow for an economic recovery.

Glaxo was the heaviest traded overnight in New York of UK companies with an American depository receipt facility. Glaxo ended 34p lower at 754p in London.

Falls were seen in SmithKline Beecham A, 39p to 833p, before trading news tomorrow, Medeva, 25p to 254p, and Wellcome, 7p to 111.16p.

The rest of the equity market took its lead from the overnight falls in New York and Tokyo with fund managers showing little willingness to chase prices higher as the last week of the three-week auction began. There are profits to be taken because of the market's strong showing since the election and this, combined with the short working week and the decision of many investors to extend their Easter break,



resulted in prices drifting lower. Recent high turnover levels were not sustained and, by the close, only 420 million shares had changed hands.

Glits were back in vogue and gained a lot of attention in late trading as the government continued its vast funding programme, revealing details of its latest auction of stock. The £2.5 billion of Treasury, 84 per cent 2116 looks like receiving a warm reception.

The stock was believed to be trading last night in the unofficial grey market at a premium of 1% above the eventual striking price. This enabled the rest of the market to reduce earlier falls of up to 1% at the longer end to around 1% by the close.

Cable and Wireless fell 14p to 558p after the company's own broker decided to downgrade its profit forecasts for this year and next. Cazenove has fallen into line with other City brokers and cut its estimate of pre-tax profits for the current year to £535 million compared with £569 million last time. For the year to March 1993, it is looking for profits of £750 million.

Brokers such as County NatWest WoodMac reckon the restructuring of Cable and Wireless's premium services operation and the merger of its Mercury PCN (personal communications network) with that of Unitel is a double blow to the group's

image as a long-term growth company. Eurotunnel made headway with the units climbing 5p to 334p, and Lloyds 2p to 391p, while National Westminster held steady at 319p, as did Royal Bank of Scotland on 172p and Standard Chartered on 468p. Tate & Lyle continued to respond to a buy recommendation from Hoare Govett, advancing 6p to 427p. Bowater firmed 2p to 798p as the rumour of the group's recent £335 million rights issue was sold in the market. Hoare Govett placed the 2.9 million shares at 788p.

Scottish & Newcastle, the drinks and leisure group, was a dull market, falling 8p to 454p. RMC, the building products group, continued to benefit from last week's better than expected figures, climbing 32p to 667p. Analysts have been busy upgrading their estimate of pre-tax profits for the current year and it now looks as if the shares are enjoying a re-rating. But a shortage of stock has begun to exaggerate the price movements with turnover remaining on the low side. By the close of business only 511,000 shares had changed hands.

Euro Disney suffered another sharp fall but managed to close off the bottom with a deficit of 20p at £13.15. Attendance figures in the wake of the opening of its theme park on the outskirts of Paris are reckoned to have fallen short of expectations.

MICHAEL CLARK

exposure to the ailing property market. Barclays lost another 5p to 334p, and Lloyds 2p to 391p, while National Westminster held steady at 319p, as did Royal Bank of Scotland on 172p and Standard Chartered on 468p. Tate & Lyle continued to respond to a buy recommendation from Hoare Govett, advancing 6p to 427p. Bowater firmed 2p to 798p as the rumour of the group's recent £335 million rights issue was sold in the market. Hoare Govett placed the 2.9 million shares at 788p.

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MICHAEL CLARK

MICHAEL CLARK

HK rises in wary trading

Hong Kong — Shares finished firmer but below the day's highs in cautious trading. The Hang Seng index rose 10.4 points to 5,093.09.

Prices were generally higher in the morning on local demand for banking and utilities shares, but slipped in the afternoon. Turnover fell to HK\$2.45 billion (£181 million) from Thursday's \$3.17 billion. The broader-based all-ordinaries index finished 9.32 points up at 2,751.56.

Andrew Au, a director at Hoare Govett, said: "Despite Tokyo's fallout and New York's weakness, the market managed to open higher and hold quite firm throughout the day."

□ Sydney — Prices closed slightly lower in thin volumes with many investors still on holiday and sentiment depressed by weakness in overseas markets. The all-ordinaries index closed 2 points down at 1,588. Only 56.5 million shares, worth A\$136.4 million (£60 million), were traded.

□ Frankfurt — The Dax index climbed gradually but slowly in a day with low volumes, finishing just below last week's close. The Dax closed at 1,746.5, down 2.73 points from Thursday.

□ Singapore — Shares fell in thin trading despite late bargain hunting. The Straits Times index ended at 1,402.65, down 10.14 from Monday's close.

(Reuters)

Dow loses early gains

New York — Blue chips relinquished their opening gains and then retreated as losses in London and Tokyo, rising interest rates and Monday's 30-point fall weighed on the points to 3,330 in morning trading after reaching 3,342. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 6.31 (Reuters)

WALL STREET

Apr 21	Apr 20	Apr 19	Apr 18	Apr 17	Apr 16	Apr 15	Apr 14	Apr 13	Apr 12	Apr 11	Apr 10	Apr 9	Apr 8	Apr 7	Apr 6	Apr 5	Apr 4	Apr 3	Apr 2	Apr 1	Mar 31	Mar 30	Mar 29	Mar 28	Mar 27	Mar 26	Mar 25	Mar 24	Mar 23	Mar 22	Mar 21	Mar 20	Mar 19	Mar 18	Mar 17	Mar 16	Mar 15	Mar 14	Mar 13	Mar 12	Mar 11	Mar 10	Mar 9	Mar 8	Mar 7	Mar 6	Mar 5	Mar 4	Mar 3	Mar 2	Mar 1	Feb 28	Feb 27	Feb 26	Feb 25	Feb 24	Feb 23	Feb 22	Feb 21	Feb 20	Feb 19	Feb 18	Feb 17	Feb 16	Feb 15	Feb 14	Feb 13	Feb 12	Feb 11	Feb 10	Feb 9	Feb 8	Feb 7	Feb 6	Feb 5	Feb 4	Feb 3	Feb 2	Feb 1	Jan 31	Jan 30	Jan 29	Jan 28	Jan 27	Jan 26	Jan 25	Jan 24	Jan 23	Jan 22	Jan 21	Jan 20	Jan 19	Jan 18	Jan 17	Jan 16	Jan 15	Jan 14	Jan 13	Jan 12	Jan 11	Jan 10	Jan 9	Jan 8	Jan 7	Jan 6	Jan 5	Jan 4	Jan 3	Jan 2	Jan 1	Dec 31	Dec 30	Dec 29	Dec 28	Dec 27	Dec 26	Dec 25	Dec 24	Dec 23	Dec 22	Dec 21	Dec 20	Dec 19	Dec 18	Dec 17	Dec 16	Dec 15	Dec 14	Dec 13	Dec 12	Dec 11	Dec 10	Dec 9	Dec 8	Dec 7	Dec 6	Dec 5	Dec 4	Dec 3	Dec 2	Dec 1	Nov 30	Nov 29	Nov 28	Nov 27	Nov 26	Nov 25	Nov 24	Nov 23	Nov 22	Nov 21	Nov 20	Nov 19	Nov 18	Nov 17	Nov 16	Nov 15	Nov 14	Nov 13	Nov 12	Nov 11	Nov 10	Nov 9	Nov 8	Nov 7	Nov 6	Nov 5	Nov 4	Nov 3	Nov 2	Nov 1	Oct 31	Oct 30	Oct 29	Oct 28	Oct 27	Oct 26	Oct 25	Oct 24	Oct 23	Oct 22	Oct 21	Oct 20	Oct 19	Oct 18	Oct 17	Oct 16	Oct 15	Oct 14	Oct 13	Oct 12	Oct 11	Oct 10	Oct 9	Oct 8	Oct 7	Oct 6	Oct 5	Oct 4	Oct 3	Oct 2	Oct 1	Sep 30	Sep 29	Sep 28	Sep 27	Sep 26	Sep 25	Sep 24	Sep 23	Sep 22	Sep 21	Sep 20	Sep 19	Sep 18	Sep 17	Sep 16	Sep 15	Sep 14	Sep 13	Sep 12	Sep 11	Sep 10	Sep 9	Sep 8	Sep 7	Sep 6	Sep 5	Sep 4	Sep 3	Sep 2	Sep 1	Aug 31	Aug 30	Aug 29	Aug 28	Aug 27	Aug 26	Aug 25	Aug 24	Aug 23	Aug 22	Aug 21	Aug 20	Aug 19	Aug 18	Aug 17	Aug 16	Aug 15	Aug 14	Aug 13	Aug 12	Aug 11	Aug 10	Aug 9	Aug 8	Aug 7	Aug 6	Aug 5	Aug 4	Aug 3	Aug 2	Aug 1	Jul 31	Jul 30	Jul 29	Jul 28	Jul 27	Jul 26	Jul 25	Jul 24	Jul 23	Jul 22	Jul 21	Jul 20	Jul 19	Jul 18	Jul 17	Jul 16	Jul 15	Jul 14	Jul 13	Jul 12	Jul 11	Jul 10	Jul 9	Jul 8	Jul 7	Jul 6	Jul 5	Jul 4	Jul 3	Jul 2	Jul 1	Jun 30	Jun 29	Jun 28	Jun 27	Jun 26	Jun 25	Jun 24	Jun 23	Jun 22	Jun 21	Jun 20	Jun 19	Jun 18	Jun 17	Jun 16	Jun 15	Jun 14	Jun 13	Jun 12	Jun 11	Jun 10	Jun 9	Jun 8	Jun 7	Jun 6	Jun 5	Jun 4	Jun 3	Jun 2	Jun 1	May 31	May 30	May 29	May 28	May 27	May 26	May 25	May 24	May 23	May 22	May 21	May 20	May 19	May 18	May 17	May 16	May 15	May 14	May 13	May 12	May 11	May 10	May 9	May 8	May 7	May 6	May 5	May 4	May 3	May 2	May 1	Apr 30	Apr 29	Apr 28	Apr 27	Apr 26	Apr 25	Apr 24	Apr 23	Apr 22	Apr 21	Apr 20	Apr 19	Apr 18	Apr 17	Apr 16	Apr 15	Apr 14	Apr 13	Apr 12	Apr 11	Apr 10	Apr 9	Apr 8	Apr 7	Apr 6	Apr 5	Apr 4	Apr 3	Apr 2	Apr 1	Mar 31	Mar 30	Mar 29	Mar 28	Mar 27	Mar 26	Mar 25	Mar 24	Mar 23	Mar 22	Mar 21	Mar 20	Mar 19	Mar 18	Mar 17	Mar 16	Mar 15	Mar 14	Mar 13	Mar 12	Mar 11	Mar 10	Mar 9	Mar 8	Mar 7	Mar 6	Mar 5	Mar 4	Mar 3	Mar 2	Mar 1	Feb 28	Feb 27	Feb 26	Feb 25	Feb 24	Feb 23	Feb 22	Feb 21	Feb 20	Feb 19	Feb 18	Feb 17	Feb 16	Feb 15	Feb 14	Feb 13	Feb 12	Feb 11	Feb 10	Feb 9	Feb 8	Feb 7	Feb 6	Feb 5	Feb 4	Feb 3	Feb 2	Feb 1	Jan 31	Jan 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16	Jan 15	Jan 14	Jan 13	Jan 12	Jan 11	Jan 10	Jan 9	Jan 8	Jan 7	Jan 6	Jan 5	Jan 4	Jan 3	Jan 2	Jan 1	Dec 31	Dec 30	Dec 29	Dec 28	Dec 27	Dec 26	Dec 25	Dec 24	Dec 23	Dec 22	Dec 21	Dec 20	Dec 19	Dec 18	Dec 17	Dec 16	Dec 15	Dec 14	Dec 13	Dec 12	Dec 11	Dec 10	Dec 9	Dec 8	Dec 7	Dec 6	Dec 5	Dec 4	Dec 3	Dec 2	Dec 1	Nov 30	Nov 29	Nov 28	Nov 27	Nov 26	Nov 25	Nov 24	Nov 23	Nov 22	Nov 21	Nov 20	Nov 19	Nov 18	Nov 17	Nov 16	Nov 15	Nov 14	Nov 13	Nov 12	Nov 11	Nov 10	Nov 9	Nov 8	Nov 7	Nov 6	Nov 5	Nov 4	Nov 3	Nov 2	Nov 1	Oct 31	Oct 30	Oct 29	Oct 28	Oct 27	Oct 26	Oct 25	Oct 24	Oct 23	Oct 22	Oct 21	Oct 20	Oct 19	Oct 18	Oct 17	Oct 16	Oct 15	Oct 14	Oct 13	Oct 12	Oct 11	Oct 10	Oct 9	Oct 8	Oct 7	Oct 6	Oct 5	Oct 4	Oct 3	Oct 2	Oct 1	Sep 30	Sep 29	Sep 28	Sep 27	Sep 26	Sep 25	Sep 24	Sep 23	Sep 22	Sep 21	Sep 20	Sep 19	Sep 18	Sep 17	Sep 16	Sep 15	Sep 14	Sep 13	Sep 12	Sep 11	Sep 10	Sep 9	Sep 8	Sep 7	Sep 6	Sep 5	Sep 4	Sep 3	Sep 2	Sep 1	Aug 31	Aug 30	Aug 29	Aug 28	Aug 27	Aug 26	Aug 25	Aug 24	Aug 23	Aug 22	Aug 21	Aug 20	Aug 19	Aug 18	Aug 17	Aug 16	Aug 15	Aug 14	Aug 13	Aug 12	Aug 11	Aug 10	Aug 9	Aug 8	Aug 7	Aug 6	Aug 5	Aug 4	Aug 3	Aug 2	Aug 1	Jul 31	Jul 30	Jul 29	Jul 28	Jul 27	Jul 26	Jul 25	Jul 24	Jul 23	Jul 22	Jul 21	Jul 20	Jul 19	Jul 18	Jul 17	Jul 16	Jul 15	Jul 14	Jul 13	Jul 12	Jul 11	Jul 10	Jul 9	Jul 8	Jul 7	Jul 6	Jul 5	Jul 4	Jul 3	Jul 2	Jul 1	Jun 30	Jun 29	Jun 28	Jun 27	Jun 26	Jun 25	Jun 24	Jun 23	Jun 22	Jun 21	Jun 20	Jun 19	Jun 18	Jun 17	Jun 16	Jun 15	Jun 14	Jun 13	Jun 12	Jun 11	Jun 10	Jun 9	Jun 8	Jun 7	Jun 6	Jun 5	Jun 4	Jun 3	Jun 2	Jun 1	May 31	May 30	May 2
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Funding goes well for Bank

Remember all those pre-election warnings about a looming fiscal crisis and an exploding public sector borrowing requirement? Investors in the gilt-edged market have apparently forgotten all about them, and they are probably right. Assuming a successful outcome to the £2.5 billion gilts auction announced yesterday by the Bank of England, the authorities will have covered a quarter of the entire financial year's funding requirement before the end of the first month.

According to Greenwell Montagu estimates published yesterday, the Bank has sold £1.8 billion of "unofficial" gilts in the days since the election, on top of the £2.4 billion worth of official taps and £600 million of calls on previous gilt issues. With another £2.5 billion from next week's auction of 25-year stock, the total funding since April 9 will amount to £7.3 billion. This compares with a 1992-3 funding requirement estimated by Greenwell at £30 billion if the Treasury is right in its PSBR forecast of £28 billion. On top of the PSBR, the £30 billion gilt funding would cover £7.2 billion worth of redemptions due in the present financial year, partly offset by sales of national savings instruments worth about £4 billion.

Of course the gilt market is not going to enjoy for long the kind of euphoric conditions that allowed the Bank to get one quarter of the year's funding out of the way in just three weeks. By yesterday afternoon, dealers were showing clear signs of listlessness and there was much talk of an inevitable technical correction. Such a correction, perhaps combined with further bad news from Germany on the money supply or the weekend's strike ballot by public sector workers, could yet create difficulties for next week's auction. In the long term, however, investors at home and abroad are going to be sorely tempted by a yield of almost 9 per cent guaranteed for 25 years by what has suddenly become the most stable government in Europe. The long end of the market is normally considered more risky and unstable than the short end, but the Bank has rightly judged that ultra-long bonds are likely to hold the greatest appeal for investors.

Brinkmanship

Olympia & York, the financially stretched and secretive developer of Canary Wharf, is giving its banks a hard time. Underlying the strategy being used to get O&Y through a severe liquidity problem is a well-known inversion of roles in the property world. If you owe the bank £100 and you cannot pay, you have a problem. But if you owe the bank £1 million and you cannot pay, the bank has a problem.

O&Y's banks are between a rock and a hard place. They are unhappy about putting in fresh money without access to all the information they feel they need to make serious judgments on the group's viability, and they are at the same time fearful about the scale of the damage if they do not. In London, banks are being asked for £100 million to continue funding Canary Wharf, while in Canada, O&Y's home base, \$85 million is needed for continuing support of operations there.

This approach, which leaves the Reichmann family firmly in the driving seat and relegates the bankers to an uncomfortable state of ignorance, cannot last for ever. The bankers need much more information about O&Y's current trading and the asset valuations presented in aggregate last week. Without much more hand-holding from their borrower, the banks may run out of patience before simple banking prudence requires them to refuse further invitations to lend in the dark.

A higher share price is seen as evidence that the City has faith in Charles Mackay as chief executive, says Michael Tate

Among the myriad records set last week in the stock market's exuberance over the Conservative election victory, shares in Inchcape breasted 500p for the first time.

As records go, it may not figure in the Don Bradman class, but it brought particular pleasure to a boardroom concerned with how the City would react to the premature handover of control by Sir George Turnbull to Charles Mackay.

Although the succession had been clearly, and publicly, identified much earlier in 1991, Inchcape had envisaged a longer bedding-in period for Mr Mackay than Sir George's health was subsequently to allow. Almost six months after the break, it is virtually impossible to see the join.

All of which says as much about the shape and fitness of the company that Sir George handed over as it does about the qualities of its new chief executive.

Nearly 300 years have passed since the clippers that were to open up Inchcape's first sea lanes set sail. Arguably, however, Sir George did as much in his six years as chief executive as was achieved in the preceding centuries. Allowing for the sub-division that split each £1 unit into four 25p shares in 1988, the share price has multiplied from a low of 73p to today's 506p.

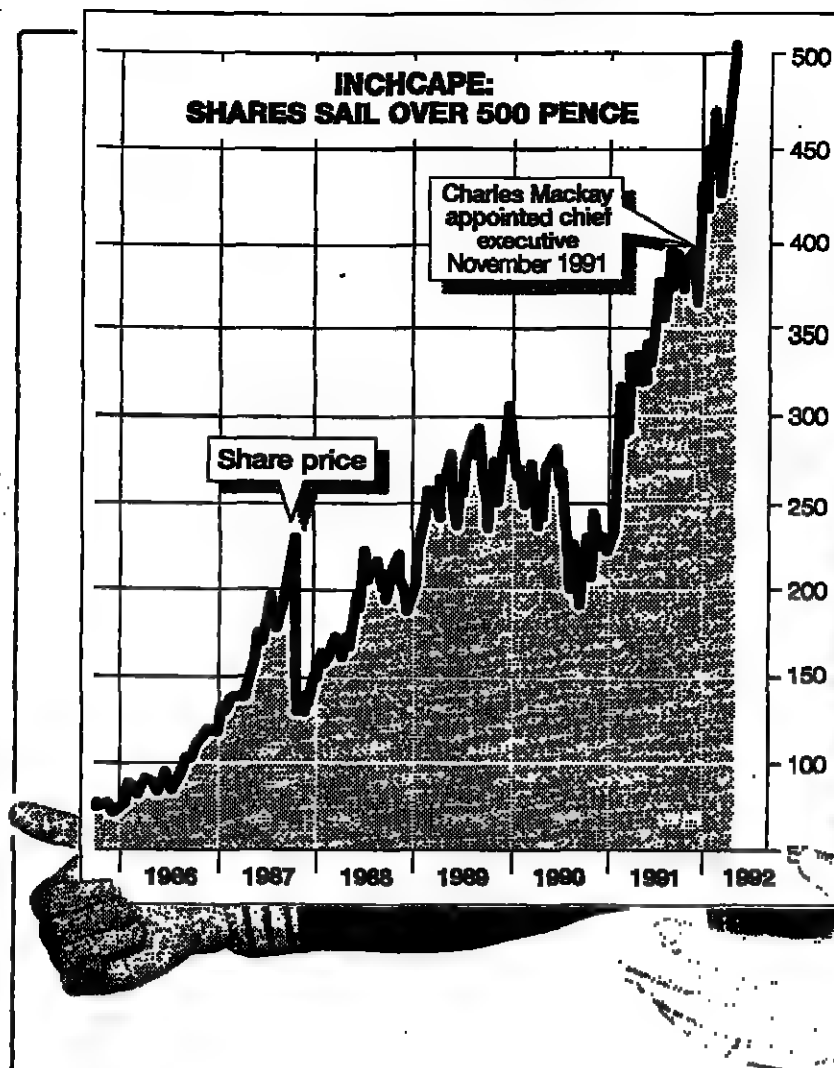
Since October 1985, this ancient trading company has embarked on a second era of expansion and growth. But do not call it a trading company, least of all, an overseas trader. This is the image Inchcape has desperately tried to throw off since the day Sir George took the helm. In the bland, business-speak beloved of modern-day industrialists, Inchcape prefers to mask its still colourful worldwide car distribution to timber felling activities under the term international marketing and services group.

The change of classification was one of three slightly less serious private ambitions outlined by Sir George and a couple of members of his new management team in a lighter moment after his appointment as chief executive in 1985.

Inchcape's adoption as a constituent of the newly formed business services category happened over a year ago, by which time alpha-stock status had been achieved. Membership of the FT-SE 100, which completed the triple, was celebrated last year.

Today, Inchcape is a £2.6 billion combine, insulated against the worst ravages of recession by an almost unequalled spread of interests around the globe. If anything, the pace of change has picked up since Mr Mackay's appointment.

Inchcape sails the seven seas to avoid the ravages of recession



Hands-on operation: the fast pace of change at Inchcape continues under Charles Mackay as the shares top 500p

and it was he who launched the group's largest-ever takeover bid in December last year, just a month after his elevation.

The £382 million acquisition of Tozer Kemsley and Millbourn (Holdings), the Daihatsu, Ferrari, Lada and Chrysler distributor in the UK, was financed by Inchcape's first rights issue and completed this year. The size of the group grew by a third, while the motor division dou-

Analysts appreciate that with the advent of Hong Kong's return to the Chinese in 1997, Inchcape could not have a better man in its hot seat

bled, providing a poignant moment for Sir George, who was forced to take a back seat at such a key time for a man whose entire business career had been so closely bound to the motor industry.

If there is an area where Mr Mackay will need time if he is to emulate Sir George, it is his knowledge of the worldwide motor industry, which will now contribute about 60 per cent of Inchcape profits.

Importantly, however, the two key deals — the acquisition of TKM and

the orderly reorganising of Inchcape's distributorship arrangements with Toyota — were in place before Sir George stepped down.

Given the unseemly disputes sparked by the change of policy by Japanese motor manufacturers with regard to their distributorship arrangements, Inchcape's deal with Toyota, which came into effect at the beginning of last year, looks far sighted.

Under the terms of the arrangement, Toyota will execute a staged acquisition of 51 per cent of Toyota (GB), currently an Inchcape subsidiary, by January 1996. In return, the Japanese have agreed to pay £60 million, guaranteed that Toyota (GB) will keep the UK distributor rights for 18 years, and acquired a friendly, and reassuring, 4.7 per cent stake in Inchcape for about £50 million.

This deal, concluded as work began on Toyota's new UK production facility in Derbyshire, which is expected to produce 200,000 cars for the European market by the late Nineties, is perceived as vital to Inchcape's future.

Even Sir George, however, would shrink in horror at the suggestion that Inchcape was primarily a motor distributor with a string of "other activities".

Mr Mackay, who for five years until November, ran the group's Far East operations, is, if anything, more firmly wedded to Inchcape's business streaming strategy. Since

the new year, this has been underlined by the acquisition of Spinney's, the former British & Commonwealth distributor of consumer goods, foodstuffs, and household products in the Middle East for £32.1 million, while last week, the group augmented its inspection and quality assurance interests with a small French acquisition.

Inchcape continues to trade in more than 60 countries, while the

Inchcape is a £2.6 billion combine, insulated against the ravages of recession by an almost unequalled spread of interests around the globe

Inchcape Pacific arm, under Mr Mackay, earned just short of a third of group profits last year. South East Asia contributed a further 20 per cent.

Analysts have also come to appreciate that with the advent of Hong Kong's return to the Chinese in 1997, Inchcape could not have a better man in its hot seat. Hong Kong has been home to Mr Mackay for the past five years, during which he has built up an intimate knowledge of the key players and policies.

not to mention the group's own activities there.

Key to the group's conviction of its ability to survive any turmoil that may accompany the departure of the British is the nature of its business. Unlike other trading hongs, such as Jardine and Hutchison, Inchcape had no fixed assets to speak of in the colony. It owned no property, nor manufacturing interests. As a service company in a worst case scenario, it had comparatively little to lose. Should it be necessary, Inchcape Pacific could be run from Taiwan, say, with minimal disturbance to day-to-day operations.

Inchcape firmly believes this will not be necessary, and that it will have an important role to play in the new era. It would claim to know China better probably than almost any other western company and was the first in recent times to set up trading posts in Vietnam and Cambodia.

Mike Murphy, respected analyst at Warburg Securities, the company's house broker, remains very positive. He is looking for pre-tax profits of more than £250 million this year, to produce earnings of up to 30p a share.

This may leave the shares looking high on a short term view — a prospective earnings multiple of almost 17 — but Inchcape has entered the nineties with a leap that has taken it from the 19th to the 21st century.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Goobey back in Square Mile

AFTER a year's leave of absence as special adviser to Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, Alastair Ross Goobey yesterday rejoined James Capel, resuming his role as the firm's chief investment strategist. Ross Goobey, 46, who says he is "looking forward" to working with his old colleagues again, is clearly torn between the political and financial worlds. He was also once a special adviser to Nigel Lawson, when he was Chancellor, working for him for more than a year, from April 1986 until the June 1987 election. Several years before that, in 1979, he stood as a Conservative candidate for Leicester West. "To have two periods of working in the Treasury as political adviser to two chancellors is an experience given to few people, and I am delighted that both ended with the re-election of a Conservative government," he says. Ross Goobey, who says that he is now too old to have any political aspirations of his own — "the reason I decided to go and work for Norman was because no constituency wanted to interview me as a prospective candidate" — reveals that in terms of personal friendship he is closer to Lamont than Lawson. "He is a very nice man and certainly one of the driest members of the cabinet, in political terms. It is a strange — and very unfair — politics that judges people by their looks rather than their policies." Such is Ross Goobey's dedication that he accepted the Treasury job and, with it, a cut in pay "of more than half." Now



"It's for avoiding receivership"

back into the realm of six-figure salaries, Ross Goobey admits, "my wife and my bank manager are very relieved."

Jobs cheer

THE post-election boom is already under way according to recruitment specialist Douglas Lambias Associates. After a drop in advertised job vacancies of 30 per cent in the month before the election, employers are, they claim, now recruiting again with job vacancies up 50 per cent. "Traditionally job vacancies go right down at Easter time, so this is incredibly good news about returning confidence," says a DLA spokesman.

Hospital millions

SELF-GOVERNING hospitals that feared that a Labour government might reverse their independent status have, it seems, been rushing to sign up City fund managers after the Conservatives' return to power. David Ed-

wards, head of charity investments at broker Henderson Crosthwaite, says that since the election several large hospitals, feeling more confident about their future, have placed funds with him which "run into millions". Hospitals have always had special charitable funds. What is less well known is that when they become self-governing under the 1990 reforms, they also became eligible to reclaim a portion of those charitable funds, hitherto managed centrally by district health authorities. Many hospitals, including the Central Midland, have already claimed their share, while others like Nottingham City Hospital, which stands to gain charitable funds in excess of £2 million from the Nottingham health authority, are still considering whether to take over the management of the funds themselves. Douglas Taylor, finance director of Nottingham City Hospital, says he has already had offers of help from Morgan Grenfell, CS Investment Management, Charterhouse and Henderson Crosthwaite, but fund managers, keen to cash in on the NHS reforms, will have to play a waiting game — Taylor doesn't expect to make a final decision for at least a year.

BEFORE the official proceedings started at the Television and Radio Industry Club awards at the Grosvenor House hotel, compere David Frost delighted the audience by announcing an additional, unofficial category. "The best actors of the year award goes to... Ian and Kevin Maxwell... in... Silence of the Lambs."

CAROL LEONARD

Small firms' audits aid business

From the President of the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants

Sir, I believe Stella Fearnley's argument (Accountancy Times, April 9) for the abolition of small company audits is short-sighted and wrong. The case for abolition appears to be that owner-managed corner shop businesses constituted as limited companies do not need to undergo the discipline of a formal statutory audit. The requirement for a statutory audit goes hand in hand with limited liability. To advocate its abolition is an inappropriate and simplistic response to the difficulties facing small businesses and the accountancy profession.

It is undoubtedly true that many such businesses are unsuited to wear the mantle of limited liability and it may be that either an alternative form of incorporation should be introduced or the costs of disincorporation should be lessened.

However, those businesses that wish to continue to have limited liability should be bound by the requirement for a statutory audit. Professionally audited accounts are used by the business community in many ways. Banks and other financial institutions rely on them when deciding upon borrowing applications, as they tell them about the health of companies. Large companies use them for assessing financial management, competence and financial stability when considering dealership appointments and supply contracts.

Tax inspectors are more likely to agree assessments when accounts have been certified by audit firms of standing. Credit rating agencies use them when compiling sta-

tus reports. The audit is therefore an aid to small businesses and to the many companies which come into contact with them — not a bureaucratic restriction.

Those who argue for the abolition of small company audits overlook how far the term "small" is already stretched by companies legislation. The legal definition of a small company embraces a £2 million turnover limit, a £975,000 asset total and a 50 employee limit. Any redefinition of small companies for auditing purposes would be arbitrary and inconsistent with existing limits. Exemption because of corporate structure is preferable by far to exemption by virtue of size.

Limited liability confers privileges on businesses which choose to trade in this way, but it does impose responsibilities. In return for the protection offered by limited liability status, it is only appropriate that companies should submit their accounts for a regular audit.

There are no doubt several ways in which the burdens on small businesses can be eased and a recent paper by the Institute of Directors outlined their own manifesto for reform.

In the current climate, with the audit side of the profession under such focus and questions on fundamental matters being asked, I find it strange that there are people calling for less audit. The need is not to reduce the role or scope of audit but to raise it to a consistent standard.

Yours faithfully,

K. R. ANDERSON

President

The Chartered Association of Certified Accountants

29 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2.

Small firms' audits aid business

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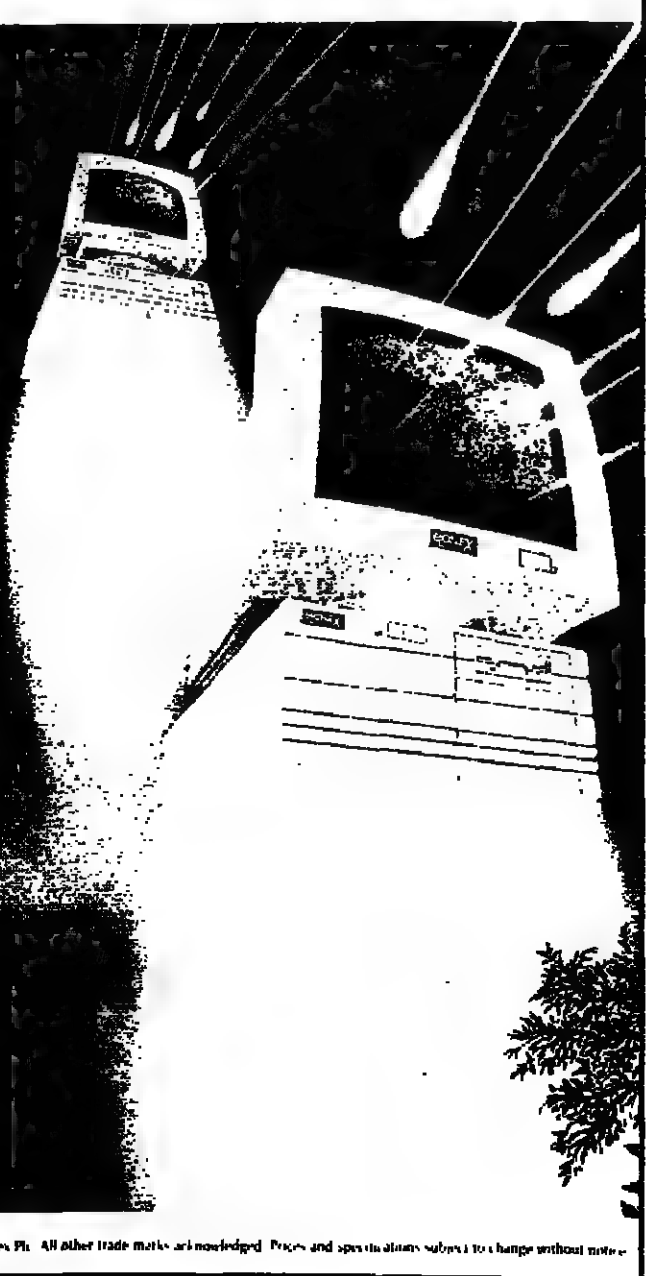
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No.	Company	Group	Share Price
1	Franklin	Chemicals	1.00
2	Renold	Chemicals	1.00
3	Lon Ind	Industrial	1.00
4	Philips	Industrial	1.00
5	Dunlop	Industrial	1.00
6	Manitex	Industrial	1.00
7	Heathrow	Industrial	1.00
8	Imperial	Industrial	1.00
9	BP Ind	Industrial	1.00
10	Dunlop	Industrial	1.00
11	Albright	Industrial	1.00
12	W&A	Industrial	1.00
13	W&A	Industrial	1.00
14	W&A	Industrial	1.00
15	W&A	Industrial	1.00
16	W&A	Industrial	1.00
17	W&A	Industrial	1.00
18	W&A	Industrial	1.00
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20	W&A	Industrial	1.00

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Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily total for the weekly dividend of £4,000 on Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

Felicia Alatrash, of Leatherhead, Surrey, won the £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday.

1992 High Low Company Price Div % Yld % P/E

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	% Yld	% P/E
1	1.00	0.95	Albright	1.00	0.05	5.0	10.0
2	1.00	0.95	Albright	1.00	0.05	5.0	10.0
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20	118	Beacer	120	...	4.0	4.4	on
87	216	Bellway	284	...	11.0	5.2	20.0
30	10	Bellwinch	20
19	210	Berkeley Cp	318	+ 3	...	1.0	...
00	98	Bet Bros	100	...	4.2	5.0	...
89	54	Blackkys	72	...	3.3	6.4	on
91	212	Blue-Cycle	264	5.0	17.3

Cuban opponent has respectable record

Ribalta could lack desire to push Bruno to the limit

BY SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

FRANK Bruno attempts a feat tonight that has never been tried before — to clear with one bound the chasm that separates unrated heavyweights from the best in the division at the top of the world rankings.

To achieve this he has to beat José Ribalta, a Cuban-born American, at the Albert Hall. He would then be given a bout with the world No. 1 contender, Pierre Coetzee, of South Africa. Coetzee struggled to outpoint Ribalta, flooring him and then being floored himself. In the end, he was generally acknowledged that Ribalta "had been robbed".

For once, the experts will have to accept that a solid enough opponent had been found for Bruno. The 6ft 7in Cuban has lost seven bouts in 39 contests, compared to Bruno's three defeats in 33. Ribalta was beaten on points by James "Bonecrusher" Smith and Tim Witherspoon, both of whom knocked out Bruno in ten rounds. Ribalta went ten rounds with Mike Tyson, while Bruno could last

only five. However, the bout may not turn out to be as competitive as the records suggest it could be.

After all, Ribalta has been called in by Bruno's promoter and matchmaker to help further the Englishman's career. Ribalta, now well past his best, could be ready to fall. At 29, which although no age at all for heavyweights, he appears to be showing signs of ring-weariness, being floored more often than before.

Duff believes he has made the right decision in picking Ribalta. "I don't make matches Bruno can't win," Duff said yesterday. "It will be a fight to the limit because for the first time Bruno is fighting someone with longer arms."

Duff did not think Bruno's lack of ring action — only one round after an absence of little over three years from boxing — would show. Bruno has had good sparring, especially with Henry Alcinwande. "Alcinwande is not a sparring partner. He is a good prospect," Duff said. "Ask Gary Mason. He will

tell you what it is to spar with him. Bruno went 30 rounds with him and in the end no man was the winner. But it showed Bruno can go the rounds if he has to."

Ribalta's trainer, Felix Pintor, a former boxer, talks a good fight. "I can't see how Bruno can beat José," he said. "I tell José that Bruno is the easiest fight of his career. Because the three guys who have knocked out Bruno — Tyson, Witherspoon and Bonecrusher Smith — they could not knock José out. Yes, Bruno has a hell of a good record against nobodies. When you plant a tree it grows up as you plant it. If you plant it straight, it will grow straight, if you plant it crooked, it will grow crooked. It can't change afterwards."

In the old days, Ribalta would have been far too good for Bruno. Even now, he may know too much for him, but it is unlikely that he has the motivation to win. After all, defeating an unranked heavy-weight like Bruno would mean nothing in the world. With his greying hair and complacent nature, Ribalta looks very much a man come out of retirement for a good pay day.

Of course, after his operation last year for a torn retina and recent warnings given by Ribalta about the dangers of boxing after such an operation, Bruno might not be his old self. If he should show hesitation against an experienced man like Ribalta, the Cuban could just find that little extra to outclass Bruno. Generally, however, Ribalta tends to counterpunch, and this should allow Bruno to get in his big punch first. Should it land on the chin, the bout could be over in five or six rounds.

Collins has new plan

East Rutherford, New Jersey: The first time Steve Collins, of Ireland, boxed for a world middleweight title, he made a mistake. But he does not plan to repeat it tonight when he meets Reggie Johnson here for the World Boxing Association crown.

The Irishman won his first 16 professional bouts before falling to Mike McCallum in a WBA middleweight title contest in February 1990. His error, he said, was trying to outbox McCallum. "You must put the pressure on from the opening bell," he

said. "That's what I plan to do to Johnson — pressure him."

Johnson, too, has had a previous chance at a world title, losing a split decision to the defending International Boxing Federation champion, James Toney, in Las Vegas, after knocking Toney down in the second round.

Collins lived in Boston, Massachusetts, from 1986 until 1990 then moved back to Ireland and renewed his alliance with the Belfast manager-promoter, Barney Eastwood.



Golden girl: Meyer, with the movement of a gazelle and heart of a lioness

Meyer strides smoothly on to the world stage

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

If Zola Budd could slip her bare feet into someone else's shoes for the next few months, Elana Meyer would feel nice and comfortable. Meyer is everything that Zola used to be before she caught political spots: the South African runner the world is waiting to see.

Let out of her country to race for the first time at the weekend, she stood comparison with the glowing reports from her homeland: the movement of a gazelle, the heart of a lioness. A big, big threat to Liz McColgan's Olympic gold medal-winning plans.

Eight years ago, it was Zola Budd who left South Africa to try her luck at the Olympic Games on a passport of convenience provided by Britain. But in a 3,000 metres supposed to yield her a medal at least, she finished seventh. "Zola had a tough time because she had to fight a lot of other things apart from running," Meyer said. "I am fortunate that the doors are opening."

Now eligible to compete in Africa — it was at the African Union Games in Dakar on Saturday that Meyer made her international debut, easily winning the 3,000 metres — South Africa's scope seems certain to widen next month. The International Amateur Athletic Federation is expected to grant the provisional membership its athletes need to compete worldwide after nearly two decades in isolation.

There has been little to choose between Meyer's recent performances and those of Pieterse at her best and there is little to choose

either between Meyer's build and that of the whispering wait we remember. As a young athlete, Meyer improved each year but never enough to catch a closer-up of you know who. It was always Zola Budd, miles ahead, she said. But it was good for her motivation. When Budd left for Britain, she took Meyer's competitive heart with her.

There was a brief improvement, but soon stagnation set in. "There was no one to race," Meyer said. "At every meeting, it was the same people. It was difficult being on my own." But when Budd, now Zola Pieterse, made a comeback in 1990, and South Africa's readmission hopes grew, Meyer responded.

She has run the world's fastest 3,000 metres (8min 32.00sec) and 5,000 metres (14min 44.15sec) of the last four years, and has a half-marathon time (1hr 07min 58sec) bettered only by McColgan.

Meyer is gearing herself towards the 10,000 metres at the Olympics: South Africa's sports personality of the year against Britain's. With Olga Bondarenko, the defending champion, and Lynn Jennings, the world cross-country champion, also looking to bring her down, McColgan will be hard pressed to complement the world title she won in Tokyo last summer.

Meyer won the 3,000 metres in Dakar by 150 metres, with Pieterse second and unable to explain her poor form.

This, and the 1,500 metres, are the distances over

which Meyer hopes to open her account against Europe early in July.

She will hold her fire on her Olympic distance. "The 10,000 metres is almost like a marathon," she said. "You keep it for special occasions."

Meyer is coached by Pieter Labuschagne. Now where have you heard that name before?

Why, Zola's coach? Meyer used to work from Zola's schedules "more or less", but the emphasis has changed.

"Zola loves doing a lot of faster stuff on the track and I don't," Meyer said. And a recent move to Stellenbosch has given her a decent track to train on.

Meyer is the same age as Pieterse, 25, but was only 13 when she first ran into trouble. She ran her first half-marathon, the Foot of Africa race, and won. "But I was disqualified because I was not licensed by a club," she said.

No woman has broken 8min 30sec since the last Olympics, but Meyer intends to change that. "I think I can run a lot faster than my 8:32 of last year," she said. Pieterse agrees: "She can run 8:30... definitely."

Meyer added: "I think eventually the marathon will be my best event." But she is pleading for time. "To go to Barcelona without experience and expect a gold medal will be unrealistic," she said. Too late, the damage is done.

Her physical potential is not in question. Only her mental toughness remains to be tested.

Piggott stands by for Sangster's big Guineas hope

RACING

BY MICHAEL SEELY

LESTER Piggott is all set to attempt to record his thirtieth British classic victory on Rodrigo De Triano in the 2,000 Guineas if, as seems likely, Willie Carson is claimed to ride either Muhtarram or Badie for Sheikh Hamdan Al-Maktoum.

The only proviso is that if the Maktoum runners are withdrawn at a later stage, Carson will be allowed to regain the mount on the colt, on whom he won last season's Champagne and Middle Park Stakes and on whom he recently finished fourth behind Lion Cavern in the Greenham Stakes at Newbury.

Now 56, Piggott has already won four 2,000 Guineas, recording one victory in each of the four previous decades on Crepello (1957), Sir Ivor (1968), Nijinsky (1970) and Shadwell (1985).

Shadwell's win for Michael Stoute was the maestro's last classic win before his retirement later that year and, although he won the Breeders' Cup Turf on Royal Academy on returning to the saddle in 1990, he has yet to taste another classic success.

Although Piggott has already won a Derby, an Irish Derby, a King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes and two Ards for Robert Sangster, Rodrigo De Triano's owner, the jockey has yet to capture a 2,000 Guineas for Britain's former leading owner, whose fortunes have been back on the crest of a wave this spring.

Yesterday, Rodrigo De Triano was the subject of heavy backing for the Guineas, his price being cut from 5-1 to 4-1 with Ladbrokes and Hills. Confirming the well-being of the second favourite, his trainer, Peter Chapple-Hyam, said: "He worked really well this morning, and I'm sure he's come on a lot since finishing fourth at Newbury."

The Kentucky Derby-bound Dr Devious was also in action at Manton. "We worked him on the all-weather and he handled the dirt and the bends really well."

Of the other possible classic candidates at Manton, River Defences, an impressive win-

ner at the Newbury spring meeting, is to have his Derby preliminary in either the Vase or the Dee Stakes at the Chester May meeting and El Cortes, who was the most promising two-year-old on the gallops last season, until a training setback in the autumn, is to make his eagerly-awaited reappearance at the Newmarket Stakes at the Guineas meeting on May 1.

Other news on the Kentucky Derby front is that Thyer, who finished third behind Twist And Turn in the Fildes Stakes at Newmarket, is to join Arcturion and Dr Devious in a three-pronged European attack on America's premier classic. "We may not be able to beat Arzi, but we may well finish second," Jim Bolger said.

At Warwick yesterday, Clive Brittain and Michael Roberts were the trainer and jockey combination in form. The pair landed an 82-1 double by winning with Nuez and Tender Moment.

Discussing his weekend plans, Brittain said: "Unless the ground dries up, Skeston will be my runner in the Forte Mile on Friday, not Mystiko."

In the betting on Saturday's Sandown feature, the Whitbread Gold Cup, the best-backed horse yesterday was Arctic Call. Oliver Sherwood's unlucky Liverpool loser is now 4-1 favourite with both Corals and Hills. Ladbrokes also reported money for Charlie Brooks's course winner, Espy, who was backed from 10-1 to 7-1.



Piggott: looking for thirtieth classic win

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PROPERTY

Ignore the extras — and pick up a bargain



LIFE & TIMES

WEDNESDAY APRIL 22 1992

WOMEN

How Susan Faludi found the power of speech



Playing to the jury

How honourable is it to become a murderer's mouthpiece?

John Mortimer, QC, defends the subtle art of advocacy

Sir Edward Marshall Hall, the legendary advocate who could dominate a courtroom and who gave the shelter of his silk gown to the meanest and least attractive prisoner, used to finish his final speeches with a peroration. He would raise his arms and cup his hands in imitation of the scales of justice.

"And when they are evenly balanced, members of the jury," he would say, "you must add to the side of the accused that precious weight, the presumption of innocence." No doubt it worked extremely well, although one churlish judge started his summing up by telling the jury it was always a relief to him when Sir Edward started his scales of justice act because it meant he was coming to an end.

I never saw Marshall Hall, but my father told me he was preceded into court by a clerk bearing a pile of clean handkerchiefs, a carafe of water and an air cushion. When the prosecution evidence became awkward, he would blow his nose, a sad trumpet, on one of the handkerchiefs. If it became worse he would knock over a glass of water. If it became really damning he would slowly inflate the air cushion and then the jury had eyes and ears for nothing else.

When I was developing my own performance I tried walking up and down in a manner I copied from the late Lord Justice Salmon until the judge said: "Do keep still. It's rather like watching ping-pong." When I tried to debate an endless prosecution by congratulating the jury on having sat through what was undoubtedly the most boring case ever to be heard at the Central Criminal Court, the judge said: "Members of the jury, it may come as something of a surprise to you to know that the sole purpose of the criminal law of England is not to entertain Mr Mortimer." Juries are often friends to advocates, judges rarely.

The careers of such stars as Marshall Hall show that advocacy may certainly provide great entertainment. It may also be a form of art. A more important question is whether its expert use is an aid or an impediment to the administration of justice.

David Pannick, QC, a Fellow of All Souls and a practising barrister, has written a book in which this question is put with great clarity, true understanding and a wealth of excellent anecdotes. I am delighted to report that he comes down on the side of Marshall Hall's descendants, although the standard of acting has declined in this grey age.

Mr Pannick rightly finds the cornerstone of our system to be the "cab rank" principle. The advocate must never pronounce judgment. It is not for him to condemn, still less, to reject a client. It is vital to the administration of justice that anyone on trial, however horrific the alleged crime or repellent the suspect, has his case put as well as possible and as persuasively as he would himself if he possessed the skills of advocacy.

Certain radical barristers have suggested they would not defend suspected rapists or landlords or persons accused under the race relations acts. Mr Pannick is right to condemn this tendency. As advo-

cates we sit like taxis on the rank, our flags up and our engines purring, prepared to take on anyone who could squeeze a fare out of the legal aid, or, more often than is realised, for a free ride.

Mr Pannick, following this great tradition, has taken on such unlikely passengers as the government in the *Spycatcher* case, Cap'n Bob, Tiny Rowland, the former Chief Rabbi, L. Ron Hubbard and a waitress dismissed because her bust was too large. I have opened the cab door to crypto-fascists, doubtful property dealers and police officers alleged to be bent.

Only once did I refuse a fare. I had a client in a divorce case whose wife had alleged that he indulged in curious sexual practices. He had an undisclosed source of income and, after prolonged questioning, he admitted to being a part-time assistant hangman. I put down my flag and drove off rapidly in the opposite direction. It was more than 25 years ago and I never did it again. An advocate is like a doctor. He should aim to get his patient, or client, out of trouble and not pass moral judgments.

This brings us to the question everyone asks about advocates and, not being entirely satisfied with the answer, remains convinced that barristers are hypocrites, or even outright liars, and no more to be

'The hardest case to do well is one in which you believe passionately in the justice of your cause'

trusted than politicians, second-hand car salesmen or persons in advertising. "How on earth can you defend people you know to be guilty?"

The question is so simple and the answer so complicated. "I don't know them to be guilty. It is not my job to decide if they are guilty or not. There is a judge to do that. Or a jury. There is a prosecutor to make the case look as bad as possible, no doubt with a little help from his Lordship, who sometimes likes to put the boot in. My job is to argue the case as well as I can and to suspend my disbelief. In fact, my disbelief has been left hanging in a corner cupboard in my chambers for the past 30 years. Of course you can have some doubts about your own client's story, and then you see all its weaknesses and probably do it rather well. The hardest case to do well is one in which you believe passionately in the justice of your cause. You may ignore the points against you and probably lose."

The chapter in David Pannick's book explaining the mental process which comes so naturally to the advocate, and seems so morally dubious to the outside world, is the best and clearest exposition of the advocate's morality I have come across. It is given great weight by a

quotation I had not remembered.

Boswell asked his friend if it were right for a barrister to support a case he felt to be bad. "Sir," the great doctor told him, "you don't know it to be bad till the judge determines it. An argument which does not convince yourself may convince the judge to whom you urge it, and if it does convince him, why then, sir, you are wrong and he is right. It is his business to judge, and you are not to be confident in your own opinion but to say all you can as to your client, and then hear the judge's opinion." With which pronouncement the defence for the advocate's suspension of disbelief can safely rest.

Another reason the advocate should not decide his client's guilt or innocence is our system, which I believe we can still claim to be the best yet devised. A trial under our law is an argument which sets out to decide whether the prosecution has made the jury sure of guilt; and the fact that it has failed to do so does not mean the defender's client is innocent. The great virtue of this form of trial is that it enshrines the presumption of innocence, and it depends on the ability of advocates on both sides to present the issues clearly and with force.

It does not matter much if the advocates are barristers or solicitors, provided they spend their days in law courts and practise advocacy until it becomes a natural instinct. Indeed the bar argued for its monopoly in such an inept way (even calling in a firm of advertising agents to plead its cause) that the change was bound to happen. With unaccountable foolishness the committee recommending it suggests freeing solicitors from the "cab rank" principle. So one of the basic strengths of our system may be lost through sheer carelessness. As so often, a reasonable reform may become an act of wanton destruction.

The advocate's life is a strange one. You are never quite yourself at worst a mouthpiece, at best an interpreter for a fellow human being who is often unlikeable and always in trouble. You must bow to judges, say, "If your Lordship please", and laugh at their jokes. You must often simulate rage but never lose your temper. The task requires great persistence and the courage to stand up to hostile and irritable judges.

You often feel sick with anxiety before you go into court, and when you are on your feet you know one misguided question may let in a flood of evidence which may remove your client from his family and friends or ruin his reputation. You can never afford to be unprepared or ill in the middle of a case. You must make instant decisions and never show uncertainty.

If you write a bad play or paint an appalling picture nobody goes to prison for 14 years. Failures in the art of advocacy have more serious consequences and perhaps the only way to keep entirely sane is to forget every case once it is over. There are weeks when you must know every address, every name, every date in some complicated history. Two days after the verdict they are washed out of your mind.

There is only one truly happy moment, an enormous feeling of



Justice for all: Horace Rumpole and Liz Probert from *Rumpole of the Bailey* — advocates and actors share the skills of persuasion

relief which all advocates recognise, and it comes when you reach the end of a final speech and sit back, sweating and trembling slightly with absolutely nothing left to say. Then your job is over. The hard business of judgment is up to 12 strangers, and a great weight is lifted from your shoulders.

Such feelings must have been unendurable in death penalty cases, and the old criminal silk lived on their nerves, some of them relaxed in nightclubs and married a succession of chorus girls. Others, isolated in the strangely unreal world of law courts, betrayed their innocence in curious pronouncements. Mervyn Griffith Jones asked if the jury would like their wives or their servants to read *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, and the prosecuting counsel in the Rattenbury case asked a doctor if regular sexual intercourse might not seriously undermine the health of an 18-year-old boy. I once heard it suggested to a jury in an obscenity case that "we have done without oral sex for the last 2,000 years so why should we need it now". It is right for the advocate to be detached, but daily contact with mayhem seems to have left some of them curiously uninformed about life outside the robing room.

Sometimes the strain simply becomes too great. I heard of a barrister who returned to court after lunch and stood up to make his final plea for the defence. "Members of the jury," he said, "this is the point at which I should make a moving and impassioned speech on behalf of my client, the learned judge will then give an unbiased summing up, and you will then retire and come to a just verdict. But as I feel far too exhausted to make an impassioned speech, and as the learned judge has never given an unbiased summing up in his entire career, and as you look far too stupid to come to a just verdict, I shall sit down." He had expressed himself with unusual honesty and I believe a retrial had to be ordered.

Everyone setting out to become an advocate should read David Pannick's book and it should be enjoyed by everyone concerned about our trial system and anxious to discover its virtues.

As Mr Pannick makes clear, it cannot function without advocates. And yet they live curious lives, and the best of them have seldom been entirely happy. For all their eloquence and occasional flamboyance, there is always a space inside them, waiting to be filled by a

client. They can never quite be themselves or say exactly what they mean. They must attack people they do not dislike and flatter people they may not respect; and they leave no particular mark behind them.

Even the great Marshall Hall only lives in a few anecdotes, and not even remembered, I'm sure, by the descendants of those he saved from the gallows.

Advocates, David Pannick, Oxford University Press, £15.

INSIDE	
Arts.....	2.3
Women.....	4.5
Commercial Property.....	6
Homes.....	7.9
Law Report.....	8
TV, radio.....	10

TOMORROW
A musical *Revolving Rhymes* — and the launch of the Road Dahl Foundation

PREVIEWS FROM SATURDAY
OPENS 5 MAY • LYTTELTON THEATRE

Le Bourgeois gentilhomme
BY MOLIERE
IN A NEW VERSION BY NICK DEAR
WITH MUSIC BY JEAN-BAPTISTE LULLY

RICHARD JONES directs
Molière's riotous tale of hypocrisy, pretension and vulgarity, featuring the antics of Monsieur Jourdain (TIMOTHY SPALL) and his ridiculous but undeniably human aspirations.

Director
RICHARD JONES
Set Designers
THE BROTHERS QUAY
Costumes
NICKY GILLBRAND
Lighting
SCOTT ZIELINSKI
Music arranged and adapted by
JONATHAN DOVE
Choreography
MICHAEL POPPER



BOX OFFICE
071-928 2252
CC HOLLAND
FIRST CALL
071-497 9977
NICKY GILLBRAND
THEATRE

Just a phrase I'm going through

Sometimes, in the middle of the night, I wake up in my little flat, turn on the light, and burst into tears with relief. "Oh, I'm alive!" I gasp. "What a terrible dream!" I dreamed I was in the Algarve on holiday on my own again! The awoken cats (God bless them) at first assume an air of polite concern. But at the word "Algarve", they exchange weary glances the feline equivalent of "Tsk" and settle their heads back down on their paws. My buried-alive-in-Portugal saga seems to have lost its news value.

Meanwhile, I whither on. "I am in this café, you see, and I am reading the phrase-book. And all I can say in Portuguese is that I want two coffees, and four teas with milk, and lots of cakes! But I don't really want all these drinks because I'm on my own! And they keep bringing cakes and teas and coffees, and I don't know how to say Stop! and the teas keep coming and it's like the Sorcerer's Apprentice and... I look around and see that nobody is listening.

The good thing about this Algarve nightmare is that at least it covers everything you might want to have a nightmare about — from waking up in a box, to doing Finals in Sanskrit, to being drowned in a flash flood of Twinkies. It's all

there. A friend of mine, who frequently suffers from the Finals dream, says he sometimes manages to double the anxiety by imagining that if he doesn't pass this impossible exam, he won't be allowed to reach the age of 35; he will be obliged to go back to 11 and start again. Yikes. In a similar exercise, I sometimes ring the changes on my Algarve nightmare by imagining that while I order the usual never-ending buckets of tea and coffee, I am unaware the laws of the country have been changed, so I am slung into jail for some sort of beverage transgression.

Why am I going on about it? Because I have been studying a little phrase-book I picked up in Italy on my last holiday, and have been rather alarmed by it. *L'inglese come si parla* has always worried me. I admit, ever since I first discovered I had goofed in the shop and bought the wrong sort of phrase-book — intended for Italian visitors to England, rather than the other way around. "What would you charge to drive me to Richmond?" was the first phrase I saw in it, helpfully spelled out in pretend-phonetics: *Huot uad iu ciadg iu draiv mi tu Ric'mond?* And I thought, hang on, this can't be right. Richmond is miles away. But what I didn't fully appreciate

SINGLE LIFE
Lynne Truss suffers the nightmares of translation



at the time was what a nightmare experience the Italian visitor would have if he allowed this little phrase-book to govern his expectations of England. Because close attention reveals this newly-printed publication to have been written either: a) by someone trying to push back the boundaries of existential terror; b) by someone who got all his information from watching Ealing films; or c) in 1948.

It's the tell-tale references to trans that first set you thinking. Then you notice that the pubs close at 10 o'clock, the planes stop at Renfrew, and there are jam on-eleets on the bill of fare. The world is suddenly all Sidney Taffler and black and white. In a tobaccoist's shop, the choice of cigarettes is Gold Flake, Players and Capstan; and the lonely Italian visitor in search of a girlfriend proceeds at once to a dance hall. *"Dhis tian is veri nafjis, isn't it?"* he says to his partner, peering over her shoulder at the phrase book, and speaking like a computer. He rifles a few pages. *"Iu aat(r) e wonderful daanser! Mei ai sil iu hojium?"* Huot is iu(r) adre?" Encouraged to dabble in less formal English, he tells his new lady-friend she is *"(e) nafjis lil bil or guz"* (a nice little bit of goods). Something about all this makes me intensely worried on his behalf.

I mean, what would happen if he arrived at Victoria Station, and shouted (as he is advised here) *"Poort! Tefik dhis laghtid ru dhe Bratten train!"* ("Porter, take this luggage to the Brighton train"). There would be some sort of riot. Alas, the British public would never guess he was living in some parallel phrase-book universe, would they? They would just as-

sume he was asking for a punch in the eye. "Wash the car, and give it a good greasing," he commands at a petrol station. But what's this? Biff! Boff! Ooof! Crawling back to the car, clutching his abdomen in one hand and his phrase-book in the other, he mutters, *"Dheths dhe ghidi limit!"* (That's the giddy limit.)

I do wonder whether the book was published in a spirit of mischief by someone obsessed with Ealing Films, because actually the story that emerges from its pages is rather like an Ealing plot. Poor guileless foreigner (played by Alec Guinness, perhaps) works hard to overcome loneliness by using authentic popular slang such as "nose-rag", "old horse" and "cheese it" and nobody knows what the hell he is talking about. *"Dheths ool mai ai end Beil Maarten!"* he exclaims jocularly ("That's all my eye and Betty Martin"), amid general shrugs.

To make matters worse, the phrase "To pull the planker" is mysteriously omitted from *L'inglese come si parla*. So the poor bloke keeps hitting the deck without ever understanding the insistent question on all English people's lips.

TOMORROW
Private Life: John Diamond

THEATRE

Tragicomic picture of Russian life

Three Girls in Blue
West Yorkshire Playhouse,
Leeds



Rhapsodically reproachful: Ann Penfold as Marya

neighbours in a spirit of conciliatory sisterhood which convinces no more than her lover's change from nice to nasty. The temperamental vacillations of the Russian soul come over as mere inconsistencies in English performance, especially in Jackie Lyle's underplayed Ira, which unfairly makes Richard Albrecht's expansive adulterer look overdone.

Stephen Mulrine's translation has the usual quota of insidious, unnoticed Americanisms, but provides fine parts for Lorraine Ashbourne, a miniskirted comic actress combining proletarian perkiness with glints of refinement on the Julie Walters model; for Paul Viragh as her hopeless son of a toy boy husband "allergic to manual work"; for Helen Ryan as a dotty caretaker with the look of a bag lady; and, most of all, for Kay Mellor, herself an established playwright. As a harassed nurse, aggressively loyal mother and generally overburdened woman, her hatchet-faced bitterness marvellously expresses nerves screwed up to screaming pitch.

Designer Pamela Howard transforms the rhapsodical setting space into a summer home and a no less cluttered city flat. Michael Birch's production fails to eliminate longwindedness; but this is a worthy, if only sporadically convincing, piece of the new Russia's theatrical and social history.

MARTIN HOYLE

ROCK

To an absent friend

Freddie Mercury Tribute
Wembley Stadium

IN DEATH, no less than in life, Freddie Mercury proved a hard act to follow, and although this multi-artist marathon undoubtedly captured the popular imagination in a way which no other show has done since Live Aid in 1985, it was a patchy celebration which would have benefited from some pruning.

A succession of heavy metal acts commanded proceedings during the first half. Surprise had been voiced in some quarters at the inclusion of Metallica, Extreme, Def Leppard and the allegedly anti-homosexual Guns 'N' Roses on the bill. But for all their laterday prominence as a mainstream popular music phenomenon, Queen's musical roots have always been firmly bedded in heavy rock.

As one after another, these groups dished up their huge drum sounds, ringing power chords, and soaring chorus chants, the thriving legacy of Queen's influence in the Nineties was plain for all to hear. Extreme even went to the trouble of painstakingly creating facsimiles of half-dressed Queen songs, compressed into a medley: a noble gesture.

TELEVISION REVIEW

Canutes of cosmetology

Viewpoint 92
ITV

excluding the young or even the middle-aged had had a striking effect on the crime rate. Sun City was immaculate, tidied to within an inch of its life.

An entire industry caters for the American desire for eternal life. Apart from the founders of the Alcor Life Extension Foundation, the body freezeers — death is "very undesirable" — are the plastic surgeons who turn back the years with tucks and suction. Dr Michael Sachs, resident in a brilliant blue suit in his Central Park South consulting rooms, was gratifyingly matter of fact. He himself would never have plastic surgery, he admitted, as he prepared to rejuvenate

Debbie, a 40-something housewife from New Jersey whose husband had deserted her for a younger model. Debbie had been coaxed into the surgery by her daughter Cheryl, who declared that her mother was going to emerge as "a complete package", able to compete once more on the singles dating scene. Dr Sachs did a magnificent job: her face was stretched tight and smooth over the bones, her teeth flashed, her baggish eyes gleamed hungrily. She looked wonderful, if you like that kind of thing.

Dr Sachs may be a great surgeon but he is a terribly sententious philosopher. The operating room, he said, was like a temple, the operation itself a kind of symphony, with its slow passages and its swift dashing trills. "I see it as a very sacred experience," he opined. How much Debbie had paid for this cross between sacrament and symphony concert was not disclosed.

NIGEL HAWKES

2 ARTS

TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kari Knight

DON GIOVANNI: Scottish Opera opens its season with a new production of Don Giovanni. Tom Cairns, who designed Les Troyens in 1990, returns as designer and shares the credit as director with choreographer Alletta Collins. A young cast includes Steven Page in the title role, Glorinda Saks as Leporello, Virginia Kerr as Elvira and Glenn Winkler as Ottavio. The conductor is Robert Dean. Theatre Royal, Glasgow, 7.15pm.

MANON: Kenneth MacMillan's passionate ballet, based on the famous story by Abbé Prevost, is back in the Royal Ballet repertoire after a six-week gap. Tonight Sylvie Guillem stars as the self-destructive 18th-century French courtesan who ends up dying for love, and Laurence Hile is her impoverished lover, Des Grieux. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 01-24 1066, tonight, 7.30pm.

LONDON CONTEMPORARY DANCE: THEATRE LCO opens its spring tour at the Birmingham Hippodrome, its first visit to the city for five years. The programme comprises Dan Waggoner's jazz-age tribute, *Ree As A Bird*, Nina Weller's haunting *White Crow*, inspired by the Arizona desert and *Red*, a stomping, athletic number that has proved surprisingly popular with audiences. After Birmingham, LCO moves to the Darnley in Northampton. The Hippodrome, Hurst Street, Birmingham B21 62Z 7466, tonight-Sat, 7.30pm.

RECOVERING HOMER: In 75AD Pompeii was caught like a fly in amber, but that does not mean that nothing changes now. Since the last Pompeii exhibition in London, excavation has continued, techniques have been revolutionised, and all kinds of new

discoveries have been made. This new show not only contains many of the new finds but also features a report on the future of the past. No wonder it broke all attendance records on one of its previous tour stops, in Houston, Texas.

THE GIPSY KINGS: The lively French strumming group successfully blends Andalusian and flamenco rhythms with pop music. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 01-823 9988, 7.30pm.

CAPRICORN: The respected Scottish Gaelic-folk group, riding high on the success of their recent album *Dalruim*, headline at the Mean Fiddler with support group The Tender Trio. Mean Fiddler, 24-28a High Street, London NW10 0B1-961 5490, 8pm.

OTTO DOD: The German painter is known for his country by a few paintings from his "critical realist" phase. This retrospective shows that he began with a more idealistic style, was drawn into Expressionism and Dadaism by the first world war, and that the twenties as an adherent of the Neue Sachlichkeit (new objectivity). A thrilling odyssey which marks Dod as a significant figure in 20th-century art. Tate Gallery, Bank, London SW1 01-723 8800, 7.45pm.

(071-621 1313). Mon-Sat, 10am-5.50pm, Sun, 2-5.50pm, opens Wed, until May 17.

THE CHESTER MYSTERY PLAYS: Episodes from the medieval cycle in a bold Anglo-Portuguese co-production. (Good spoken English, Jesus Portuguese). Powerful visual images. Ten performances. Marmalade Theatre, Fiddle Dock, Blackbirds, London ECA 071-410 0000, previews tonight, tomorrow, 7.30pm; opens 14.7pm.

WHITE WOMAN STREET: Five outlaws, loaded with memories, drift into an Ohio town 80 years ago. London premiere for Sebastian Barry's play which then transfers to the Peacock Theatre, Dublin.

GAUDEAMUS: The Maly Theatre of St Petersburg returns with *Gaudeamus* (been at LFT last year), its marvellous picture of life in an army battalion for social media. The theatre is on the Northampton, Glasgow and Derby. Albany, Morley Road, Bradford, 0274 752000, tonight-Sat, 7.30pm.

AS YOU LIKE IT: David Thewlis stars as Orlando in a production of the play which then transfers to the Peacock Theatre, Dublin.

ACADEMY OF ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS: The choir of the church in the heart of London performs a programme of music by Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven. St Martin-in-the-Fields, Strand, London WC2N 4JF, 7.30pm.

THE POCKET DRAGON: A new production of a play by David Thewlis. The Pocket Dragon, 24-28a High Street, London NW10 0B1-961 5490, 8pm.

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THEATRE GUIDE

THE ALCHYMIST: David Bradley and Jonathan Hyde reimagine the town in Sam Mendes' very funny production of Jonson's satire. Barbican, 5th Street, EC2 01-638 8911, tonight, tomorrow, 7.30pm, mat, Thurs, 12.30pm.

BERLIN BERTIE: Howard Brown's satire through muddled critique of the new Europe where social welfare is a thing of the past and a spy has lost their bearings. With Penny Downie, Dana Hogg and Nicholas Woodson. Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 071-730 1749, Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat, Sat, 4pm.

THE COTTON CLUB: An impression of the Harlem night scene, high on energy, low on story freshness. Aldwych, WC2 01-636 6404, Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm, mat, Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm, 150mins.

DEATH AND THE DEADLINE: Two new cast members, and Michael Byrne in this superb play on the longing for revenge. Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 01-436 5122, Mon-Fri, 8pm, mat, Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm, 120mins.

AN EVENING WITH GARY LINCOLN: Lincoln's songs are a collection of a lifetime of a bluesman's journey to a secure life. Duxbury, Catherine Street, WC2 01-404 5075, Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8pm, mat, Sat, 4pm, 130mins.

GOOD ROCKIN' TONITE: Sensual musical celebrating Brits and Sals. Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 01-436 5122, Mon-Fri, 8pm, mat, Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm, 120mins.

HEARTBEAT HORROR: A collection of horror stories. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 071-930 8800, Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat, Wed, Sat, 2.30pm, 125mins.

MEASURE FOR MEASURE: Tom Hiddleston's production of Shakespeare's play. Haymarket, SW1 071-930 8800, Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat, Wed, Sat, 2.30pm, 125mins.

EUROPA (15): Intense and futuristic comedy on Germany's train network in 1945. Empty-headed farce from Munich. Haymarket, SW1 071-930 8800, Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat, Wed, Sat, 2.30pm, 125mins.

STONER: A play about a man who comes to his senses. Haymarket, SW1 071-930 8800, Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat, Wed, Sat, 2.30pm, 125mins.

VOYAGER (15): Strange coincidences and a pretty girl detail the life of a globe-trotting engineer. Haymarket, SW1 071-930 8800, Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat, Wed, Sat, 2.30pm, 125mins.

LA BELLE NOISSETTE (15): Jacques Brel's French musical. Haymarket, SW1 071-930 8800, Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat, Wed, Sat, 2.30pm, 125mins.

BUGSY (15): Warren Beatty as the gangster who mentored Lee Remick. Haymarket, SW1 071-930 8800, Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat, Wed, Sat, 2.30pm, 125mins.

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CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated) with the guide to release across the country

(0426 915683) Screen on Baker Street (071-375 2772) Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

CAPE FEAR (15): Dennis Quaid as the man who kills his wife and her lover. (0426 915683) Screen on Baker Street (071-375 2772) Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

THE COTTON CLUB: A musical version of the play. (0426 915683) Screen on Baker Street (071-375 2772) Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

THE DOCTOR (12): Causus surgeon (Mick Harte) goes under the knife and becomes a doctor. (0426 915683) Screen on Baker Street (071-375 2772) Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

DISCOVERED (15): Golden Hawn as the wife who doubts her husband's identity. (0426 915683) Screen on Baker Street (071-375 2772) Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

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HIGH HEELS (15): Loretta Lynn as the wife who doubts her husband's identity. (0426 915683) Screen on Baker Street (071-375 2772) Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

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JOE CANNON was paying a visit to his wife, Terry, in a warehouse on a West Coast industrial estate, he peered anxiously through clouds of vapour into a tank full of liquid nitrogen. Somewhere down there lay Terry's disembodied head, frozen for all time at a cost to Joe of \$35,000. Had he felt equally strongly about the rest of Terry, her entire mortal remains could have been preserved for \$140,000.

Anthony Thomas spared us the sight of Terry's frozen features, thank heavens. But in the *Viewpoint 92* slot on ITV last night, he pulled few other punches in a splendidly entertaining and gripping portrait of a man who, apparently, more and more people are refusing to grow old gracefully or to accept the inevitability of death, though to prove this thesis Thomas spent the better part of the film in the geriatric quarters of Florida, Arizona and California.

In Sun City, Arizona, nobody is under 55. Here grannies with varicose veins leap about in tutus, brandishing pompoms, while grizzled veterans of the beat rest their careers at 60. The chief of police, who is 72, claimed that

LITERATURE

Rebel hero of a Regency stripe

Shelley, born 200 years ago this year, has symbolised rebellion and romance to every generation since his death.

John Dugdale looks at the enduring appeal of the poet

Mick Jagger stepped forward and addressed the restive mob of 250,000 Rolling Stones fans gathered in the Hyde Park sunshine. "Cool it for a minute. I would really like to read something about Brian." The Stones' guitarist Brian Jones had been found dead in his swimming pool two days before the open-air concert.

Wearing an androgynous white costume, Jagger then read a long passage from *Adonais*, Shelley's elegy for Keats ("He is not dead, he doth not sleep/He hath awakened from the dream of life"). Hundreds of butterflies were released into the air.

This moment in July 1969, seen by millions in the film of the concert, sealed the connection between rock, revolution and Romantic poetry. And today, 200 years after the birth of Percy Bysshe Shelley, it remains tempting to equate him with a Jagger or a Jim Morrison. He seems a wholly contemporary figure, somehow trapped in the language and costume of Regency England.

So it is no accident that many of those associated with the recent revival of interest in Shelley were either university graduates in the 1960s, like the biographer Richard Holmes and the playwright Howard Brenton, or are identified with the ethos of that era, such as the journalist Paul Foot and the film director Ken Russell.

Fascinated by the parallels between 1968 and 1972, Holmes began researching his biography of Shelley in 1970: "I was possessed by him... the inner part of my life seemed completely bound up with the fate of this small Romantic circle, the post-revolutionary generation, who were trying to turn the principles of the 1790s — republicanism, atheism, free love and the shared commune of 'like spirits' — into a form of daily existence, an experiment in living."

'He was a toff, wholly supported by unearned family income'

A pioneering work of "romantic biography" as well as a breakthrough in understanding of the English Romantics, *Shelley: the Pursuit* appeared in 1974. It acted as a stimulus for Foot's book *Red Shelley* and Brenton's play *Bloody Poetry*, and probably also triggered Russell's film *Gothic*.

Holmes's Shelley is "a darker and more earthly, crueler and more capable figure", quite different from the poet-god of 19th-century mythology — typified by Matthew Arnold's "beautiful ineffectual angel beating his wings in vain".

In order to cultivate the angelic myth, the poet's family carefully suppressed any information which threatened it. Mary Shelley was prevented from writing her memoirs by an undertaking given to his octogenarian father, who supported her financially once she had returned from Italy. Her daughter-in-law, Lady Shelley, maintained rigid control of the poet's estate and reputation after Mary's death: she had a shrine built at Boscombe (where Mary's body and Percy Bysshe's heart are buried), and used every trick known to guardians of the flame — restricted access, tame biographers, destroyed and even forged texts — to preserve the sentimental fiction.

The cult of the versifying demi-god peaked in the decades around the centenary of his birth in 1892. In addition to Dowden's bowdlerised life and a staid edition of the poetry, this period saw the installation at University College, Oxford of the extraordinary Shelley memorial statue, which depicts a boyish nude corpse, mourned by a Muse. The Shelley Society, founded in 1886, took an equally devotional approach. When George Bernard Shaw announced to fellow members that as an out-and-out Shelleyan, he was "a Socialist, an Atheist and a Vegetarian," two pious ladies resigned.

One of the most devout Victorian Shelley-worshippers was Captain E.A. Silsbee of Salem, Massachusetts, whose attempt to prise some love letters from an old lady provided the model for Henry James's story *The Aspern Papers*. He failed to persuade her, but another relic he secured while in Italy has been made the centrepiece of the "Shelley's Guitar" exhibition which opens at the Bodleian Library in Oxford next week.

Accompanied by the poem "With a Guitar — To Jane", the instrument was given to Jane Williams in the spring of 1822, three months before the poet died at the age of 30 while sailing in Lercia, Italy. Other highlights of the Bodleian collection include Shelley's working notebook, the manuscript of "Ozymandias", two pages from a draft of *Frankenstein*, a miniature portrait of Mary and a love letter from her to Shelley. Extracts from their joint journal suggest that the much-discussed relationship between the two authors could often be collaborative and playful.

The opening of the exhibition



Typically Romantic view of the poet: Amelia Curran's portrait of Shelley, 1819

comes at the start of the bicentenary programme: more than 75 separate events, ranging from lectures to a boat trip around the Gulf of Lercia, in venues which can all boast some connection with the poet. Some commemorate a writer the Victorians would recognise: some a prototype Sixties radical. And others question the price paid by those who surrounded the artist.

There are ironies aplenty to be found in these celebrations, as there were in 1892. Shelley's outspoken republican views have happily not

deterred the royal family from honouring him: the Prince of Wales attended a fund-raising gala in Rome last month, and the Queen Mother (usually thought to be a Dick Francis fan) is the patron of the Keats-Shelley Memorial Association. Both Eton and University College, Oxford are marking their alumnus's anniversary, although he was wretched at the former and was sent down from the latter for atheism in his first year.

But Shelley seems to be inseparable from irony and paradox. He was

a revolutionary toff, wholly supported by unearned family income. A feminist who deserted his first wife, and reacted with apparent coolness to news of her subsequent suicide. An author with populist ambitions, he wrote long, obscure poems, full of characters with Greek names.

The growth in his reputation over the last 25 years is reflected in the sheer number of events planned for the bicentenary year. And the diversity of these events should make it possible to do justice to the contradictions in his life and his poetry.

SHELLEY EVENTS IN 1992

April 25: Shelley at Eton — speeches and guided tour, Eton College, Berks

April 25: Opening of "Shelley — Poet and Legislator" exhibition, New York Public Library, until Sep 8

April 27: Opening of "Shelley's Guitar" exhibition, Bodleian Library, Oxford until Aug 8

May 8-10: Weekend of poetry with English and Italian poets, including boat trip and Casa Magni visit, Lercia, Italy

June: Opening of Shelley room and exhibition (part of large programme of local events), Horsham Museum, West Sussex

June 21: Walks, poems, plaque-unveiling and staging of *Frankenstein*, Lymington, North Devon

June 22-27: Seminar, concert, staging of *Peacock's Nightmare*, and theme ball, University College, Oxford

Early August: *Dread Poets Society*, BBC 2 play by Benjamin Zephaniah featuring the Shelleys and Byron

October: Shelley film season, British Council, Rome

October 13: Actress reading Mary Shelley's diaries and letters, in Bathington's Tea Rooms, Piazza di Spagna, Rome

Academic conferences and symposia are being held in New York (May), Oxford (June, as above), Greenwich, Mid-Wales (August), Tokyo (date to be confirmed), Salzburg (September), Rostock, Prague and Pretoria (all October).

For information regarding these and other events, contact Kenneth Pritchard-Jones, Field Place, Warrnam, W. Sussex RH12 3PB (0403 69166).

Barometer of our recent tastes

GALLERIES: LIVERPOOL

John Russell Taylor visits the Tate Gallery's northern branch and finds many reasons to linger in Albert Dock

The least interesting and relevant thing about the main new installation at the Tate Gallery in Liverpool is its title, *New Realities*. At best it has the negative virtue of not meaning anything in particular.

In 1970 Andy Warhol devised a show for the Museum of the Rhode Island School of Design, called "Raid the Icebox". In which he simply rummaged around in the storerooms to come up with an amazing tangle of the unfashionable, the dubious and the just plain daft.

Clearly someone has been doing the same for the Tate itself, with illuminating results. Even though the recent policy of annual rotation at head office has unearthed a number of long-unseen works, what is on show in London at any given time remains merely the tip of the iceberg.

For "New Realities", attention has been focused on western European paintings and sculpture bought by or for the Tate between 1945 and 1968. Because this is a period just far enough away to look downy without yet quite making it to Modern Classic status, this means that most of the works unearthed have not been seen since soon after they joined the collection.

There are, it is true, one or two pieces, such as Peter Blake's pioneering assemblage *The Toy Shop* of 1962 and Richard Hamilton's collage painting *Interior II* of 1964, which have remained familiar, turned up in surveys of Pop Art and in the case of the Hamilton, frequently been recycled by the artist himself.

Also, of course, the artists are British, and still very much with us. The French artists of the same period are in no position to be so vocal in the

cause of their own perpetuation.

The Fifties, though of course no one knew at the time, were the tail end of the Ecole de Paris greatness, and of the city's position, virtually unchanged since the Impressionists, as the centre of everything worth observing in contemporary art.

One's first reaction to some of the pieces on show in Liverpool is inevitably "Good Lord, whatever possessed them to buy that?" But in the Fifties it was perfectly reasonable to acquire a Buffet self-portrait; now one has to remember that once every undergraduate record collection seemed to contain at least one Buffet cover for an Ella Fitzgerald songbook. Perhaps Buffet's reputation will never revive; it is admirably frank of the Tate to display such an aberration.

With other Paris-based realist painters, it is hard to be so certain. Hélon has been the subject of several recent revivals, and his later realistic work looks unexpectedly good. Probably, few people even know who Francis Gruber was, but his talent seems in *Job* (1944), a male nude against the Parisian townscape, to transcend the limitations of his Socialist Realism principles.

Besides this, there is the sort of free-form lyrical abstraction which grew up in Paris around the same time that Abstract Expressionism grew up in New York. This has now acquired a sort of period charm, and maybe something more. De Staël is still approved of, if in a slightly patronising way, but it would be difficult to find a more desirable and painterly piece than his *Landscape Study* of



Discovery: Francis Gruber's *Job* (1944), "transcends the limitations of his Socialist Realism principles"

1952. And evidently it is time we took another look at such as Singier, Manessier and Soulages.

Intriguingly, one of the new Korean painters on view upstairs in *Working with Nature*, Hyong-Kwon Yoon, is producing work now which looks very like Soulages then. Meanwhile, a quick comparison between these nearly forgotten French artists and the still famous Abstract Expressionists such as Pollock, Rothko and Gorky, included in *Myth-Making* downstairs, suggests the scales are not so weighted in favour of New York as the current critical wisdom would have it.

As revival time comes round for such other once-fetted then forgotten movements as the Danish/Dutch CoBrA group, with its anticipations of Eighties Neo-Expressionism, and Italian Arte Povera, with its use of everyday material for fine art purposes, the Tate can

congratulate itself again on its wisdom in acquiring good examples of, say, Karel Appel and Alberto Burri.

And when Op Art also has its turn, the gallery will no doubt be as happy to possess classic Vasarely and early Bridget Riley. In the same way, it clearly is now delighted to have all the wonderful Stanley Spencer works gathered together on the ground floor. After all, even Spencer had his posthumous dip in reputation, though now he looks to have as good a claim as any to the title of Britain's greatest 20th-century artist.

● *New Realities* is a new three-year display at the Tate Gallery, Albert Dock, Liverpool, (051-709 3223), revised annually. Working with Nature: Contemporary Art from Korea, continues until June 21. Myth-Making: Abstract Art from the USA and Stanley Spencer: A Sort of Heaven continue until January 7, 1993

Going back to the roots

JAZZ RECORDS

Something very strange has happened to Donald Harrison. The last time I saw the brat pack saxophonist, he was leading one of those soberly dressed, super-efficient, conservatory-trained groups which spent most of the Eighties reducing hard bop to a grim set of mathematical formulae. All of a sudden he has traded in his suit for a New Orleans carnival costume, *Indian Blues* (Candido CCD 79514), which draws on the Mardi Gras traditions of Harrison's native city, is the most unexpectedly enjoyable new release in months.

In particular the album celebrates one of the more bizarre facets of black New Orleans life, the Mardi Gras Indian tribes — groups of singers and percussionists who parade the streets in Native American costumes. Harrison's father, Donald Sr, is the leader of one of the tribes, The Guardians of The Flame, and his voice can be heard leading the chanting on this recording, supported by congas and drums.

On the best of the pieces his son's saxophone is just one voice among many, surging in and out of the ensemble as it weaves unadorned call-and-response phrases. With the estimable Dr John at the helm, "Hu-Ta-nay" sets the proceedings off at a gallop with a burst of percussion and thunderous piano chords. The momentum is maintained to the end, blending jazz with rhythm and blues. Apart from a rather dutiful "Cherokee", the project has a wonderfully exuberant and impromptu air about it like a street parade.

Dr John turns up again on *Up A Lazy River* (Private Music 26266), the latest offering from Leon Redbone, who has unearthed another assortment of odd-ball melodies from the popular song archives. No tune, however bizarre or obscure, appears to be safe from him. Not many artists would think of reviving "When Dixie Stars Are Playing Peek-A-Boo" (co-written by the ragtime pianist J.

Russel Robinson) or "At The Chocolate Bon Bon Ball".

Redbone walks a fine line between kitsch and musical scholarship. Behind the dark glasses, the music-hall moustache and the fruity baritone lies an astute musical sensibility. After a while, in fact, it is hard to distinguish between the genuine period pieces and one or two of his own affectionate parodies.

John Pizzarelli's name means little to British audiences, but in New York the young guitarist is being feted as one of the most promising

swing revivalists. The strategy appears to be to build him up as a mass-market singer-heart-throb. On *All Of Me* (Novus PD 90619) he gets the big band treatment.

Nothing wrong with that, but so far his voice — amiable but thin — scarcely begins to match his instrumental skills. Still, Pizzarelli has won outstanding reviews for his recent small group dates in Manhattan. There is every chance that he will hit the target next time he enters the studio.



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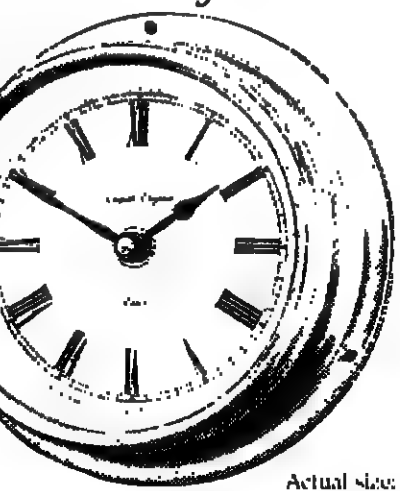
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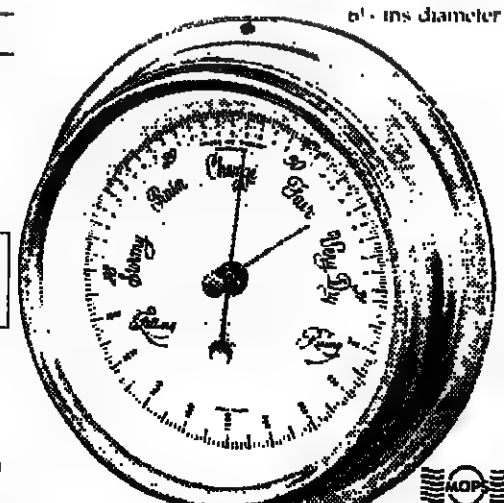
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Dough to help female politicians rise

Jamie Dettmer on an American group funneling fat cheques to selected female candidates to change the face of Congress

The offices are spartan, with formica-covered desktops and walls painted institutional cream. The hum of a computer can be heard, conversation is low, tasks are carried out briskly. A splash of brightness from modern prints dotted around adds to an ambience distinctly similar to an upmarket doctor's waiting room.

But then maybe that is fitting for the Washington offices of a feminist political action committee where plans for some major surgery on America's body politic are being laid which could change the character of Congress.

Emily's List, which supports female Democrat candidates and is one of the most powerful political fundraising groups in America, is confident that this year money placed strategically right at the beginning of the electoral cycle will help to achieve the election of the first black female senator, increase female representation in the Senate from two to four or five, and raise the number of women in the House of Representatives from 29 to more than 40.

Emily is an acronym standing for Early Money is Like Yeast: cash support for women candidates at the start of a political campaign has an effect like yeast in breadmaking: it makes the dough rise. Or at least that is the theory behind an organisation which will have well over \$3 million to spend on backing 30 or so women in congressional campaigns this year. Emily's List avoids the legally stipulated \$5,000 limit on political action committee donations to candidates by asking its members (mainly professional married women) to write their cheques out to candidates rather than to Emily's List. The list then "bundles" the cheques together and sends them on to candidates. Members have to commit themselves to writing three cheques of \$100 each every electoral cycle. The list supports only female, Democratic party candidates who are pro choice in abortion — and only those who stand the best chances of winning.

The reason for the recent rapid

growth in the list's membership from 2,800 to more than 10,000, can be traced directly to last autumn's Senate judiciary committee hearings into whether Clarence Thomas should join the bench of the US Supreme Court. Judge Thomas's nomination by President Bush for a Supreme Court post was a red rag to the Democrat bull. The drama that unfolded in the committee room was triggered by the actions of a Democrat-dominated pro choice lobby which disproved the conservative judge's suspected anti-abortion leanings.

Members of the lobby heard about a law professor, Dr Anita Hill, who claimed privately that she had been sexually harassed ten years earlier by the judge. They leaked the information to the committee and when the senators kept the allegation secret, apparently at Dr Hill's request, they leaked again, this time to the press.

The judge became a symbol to many of American man's exploitation of American woman and the sight of an all-male senate committee questioning Dr Hill about her allegation and then accepting Judge Thomas's nomination enraged not only feminists.

Senator Barbara Mikulski, a Democrat from Maryland, said on American television recently: "Everywhere I went, people said, 'Why were there not more women? Why were there not women on the judiciary committee? Why didn't we see more women on the Senate floor?' And when I explained there are only two of us, it was, 'Wow!'"

Whether or not it was a Democrat or feminist-inspired smear designed to embarrass President Bush, the Clarence Thomas case was a shot in the arm for groups campaigning for an increase in the number of women in Congress.

"The political upheaval from the hearings is still being felt and will have an effect in November," says Ellen Malcolm, the helmsman and philanthropist who started Emily's List in 1985 and is clearly astounded at its growth in the last few months.



Favoured candidate Geraldine Ferraro, backed by pressure group Emily's List, is involved in the 'cat fight of the New York corral'

In March, there were signs that there could be an electoral breakthrough for women this year. A heavy turnout by women in the Illinois primaries led to a wave of victories for women candidates. The most dramatic success came when Carol Mosley Braun, a black with wide experience in Illinois state politics, snatched the

Democrat senatorial nomination from Senator Alan Dixon, who had voted in favour of Judge Thomas. It was Senator Dixon's first defeat in 30 elections.

Ms Braun was inspired by the Thomas hearings to enter the race. Her campaign, built on the question: "Why don't we have more women in Congress?", went down

well, not only with black women. In affluent Chicago suburbs she won 62 per cent of the white female vote. "Women kept coming up to me saying they were tired of that boys' club," Ms Braun said after her victory.

Illinois may well be a harbinger for other states. Women are running in unprecedented numbers in

congressional, state legislative and gubernatorial races. Close attention is being paid to high-profile Senate contests in New York, California and Pennsylvania, where powerful female candidates stand good chances of capturing Democrat senatorial nominations from male incumbents. Candidates include Barbara Boxer and the former San

Francisco mayor Dianna Feinstein, both in California, and Lynn Yeakel in Pennsylvania.

Still battles are also under way in Arizona and Iowa. The anti-politics mood in the United States, which is already being exploited by Jerry Brown and Texas billionaire H. Ross Perot, is helping to build up momentum behind female candidates.

An opinion poll conducted for the USA Today newspaper last month suggests seven out of ten voters believe America would be better off if there were more women serving in congress. "Women are seen as outsiders, outside the good ol' boy network," says Donna Peterson, a West Point graduate who is contesting a House seat in Texas for the Republicans against the Democratic party incumbent, Charlie Wilson.

Miss Peterson's campaign is a case study in how attitudes to women candidates have changed in just two years. She ran for the same seat in Texas in 1990 and quickly became known (courtesy of her opponent) as Captain Barbie Doll.

The Republican establishment gave her little support. "I was told I looked more like someone Charlie Wilson would date than someone who could run against him," she says. This time round, even the condescending Texan hierarchy has realised Miss Peterson is within striking distance of causing an upset and is backing her to the hilt.

The issues uppermost in the minds of voters — education, environment and health care — are also in areas where women candidates are perceived to be strong. Female candidates also score points among voters for their seemingly kinder, gentler rhetoric. It will be a mistake, however, to believe that women are incapable of fighting tough when they like.

In New York, an uncivil war between feminist groups has broken out over a decision by Emily's List to back Geraldine Ferraro, the former Democratic party vice-presidential nominee, over Elizabeth Holtzman, the city's comptroller general in charge of finance. The stand-off between the two 'feminist' camps provoked a female journalist to dub the contest 'cat fight of the New York corral'.

Westerners are now living longer and staying healthier than at any time in the past — we all know that. And a spin-off from this largely post-war phenomenon is that individuals are happy to become parents at an older age.

In 1991, Les Colley became a father at 92; we cheer, too, Charlie Chaplin, Picasso, Denis Compton and Dr Christian Barnard, celebrated late fathers. But what of mothers? The idea of a new mother in her forties, fifties, or sixties is not easily accepted. This double standard is being eroded — slowly. Kathleen Campbell became a mother by natural means in 1987, aged 55. But she is an exception.

A woman who looks after herself and is basically healthy now stands a good chance of living into her eighties or even longer. Yet, while sperm production diminishes only slowly throughout adult life, ovarian failure still tends to take place around the 50 mark — and the quality of ova declines from many years earlier. Unlike

Nature, science and the single mother

Are older unmarried women entitled to children?

sperm eggs do not freeze well, so cannot at present be stored for future use. Nature is not fair. Infertility experts are now getting the message: if a woman cannot make her own eggs, or call on her own supply of frozen ones, she can be given them by another woman.

Ovum donation (egg donation from the fertile to the infertile woman) helps two groups to bear children: the younger woman, who may have had a premature menopause, polycystic ovaries or surgical removal of her ovaries, chromosomal abnormalities affecting the development of the sex organs (for example, Turner's syndrome, with 'sreak' ovaries), or who may

be the carrier of a sex-linked disease (such as haemophilia or Duchenne muscular dystrophy); and the older woman — who simply has declining ovarian function. The younger group has gained acceptance, the older has to fight for it.

As a 45-year-old single woman being treated at one of the London infertility centres, I have personal experience of the fight and have encountered both the bad and the good: on the one hand, the prejudices that still exist against allowing the older single woman to become pregnant; and on the other, the investigations that must rightly be made and the criteria which would-be mothers must fulfil before an infertility centre is satisfied that it is right to go ahead with treatment.

A pregnant 40- to 60-year-old first-time recipient of egg donation will be logged as an 'elderly primigravida' (technically, a woman having her first child over 35 years of age). There are some who are inclined to disapprove. If a woman has missed her chance earlier on, why should she have it now? Can her physiology take it? Can her psychology take it?

And the child: if it doesn't fall prey to an Oedipus or Electra complex, won't it be dogged by a 'Barbican' complex, when it simply doesn't know where it is?

A minefield, so let's tread carefully. One thing only is certain: that life is unpredictable, and everybody different. The essential ingredients — a spouse or a suitable father for the child, a point at which to make a break in a career, a home, financial stability, and, indeed a desire for motherhood — may not mix together in the right way at the right time.

In my case, when at my most fertile I was working hell for leather to help establish a small research unit in truth there was not the time to seek out the ideal father for my child, nor was one standing, arms akimbo, on my doorstep.

Then there was the lingering sickness and eventual death of my widowed mother and my responsibilities as the only child: it is not difficult to tell when the time is wrong. Since then, I have been lucky enough to find my own sperm donor who will be a father figure to any child I may have. When the ingredients do come

together for the older mother, the brew is likely to be richer and the potential for successful motherhood greater than if primigravida had stepped straight from school uniform into maternity top, pigtail, uniform.

The child's perception of having an older mother will be moulded by its mother's own confidence (or lack of it); if she is positive about timing and the means of conception, and meets the child's growing curiosity with honesty, then the child will focus on the distinction of its heritage rather than any peer derision.

Medical screening and psychiatric evaluation (luxuries reserved for the few reproducing, in all senses, under the microscope) may be employed to proffer some objective gauge, in advance of the pregnancy, of a mother's physical and mental well-being.

Egg-donated elderly primigravida has been

'As a single woman, aged 45, being treated at an infertility centre, I have experienced the fight'

through the mill, you can bet, and has pondered all the eternal verities. What then of the other, vital, half: the donor? What's in it for her? Who is she? What does she do?

Since the donor is not paid, her motivation is a desire to give. Naively idealistic? Not really. It can be a rare chance for self-assertion to know that through you someone else has the chance to experience motherhood.

The donor should be between 21 and 35 and preferably a mother herself, so her own fertility is not in doubt. All donors are tested for hepatitis B and HIV antibodies and should discuss with a doctor or counsellor what information they wish to be given following these tests. The donor is usually a volunteer (though she may be a generous patient, herself

undergoing sterilisation or assisted conception and with eggs to spare, or a friend or relative of the recipient).

The donor is required to visit the treatment centre, where counselling is carried out, and then undergoes a drug regime aimed at ripening several follicles (instead of the usual one) in her cycle. The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority's (HFEA) leaflet on egg donation notes that there can be side-effects while taking superovulatory drugs (hot flashes, weight gain, water retention) but that they are not common.

The HFEA says it is estimated that 7 per cent of those taking the drugs develop ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome, excessive development of eggs which causes the ovaries to swell. Between one and two per cent of women taking the drugs experience it so severely (symptoms include vomiting, pain and shortness of breath) that they require hospital treatment.

Laparoscopy, one of the methods of egg collection, usually requires a general anaesthetic, but most women experience little discomfort or pain from the procedure.

When mixed with the recipient's partner's sperm (or already fertilised by it, three or four of the eggs or embryos will be transferred, preferably to the Fallopian tubes of the recipient; her womb will have been thickened to receive them with progesterone (and sometimes oestrogen, too). The stage is now set for a new life.

About one in four women given egg donation achieve a successful pregnancy.

There is a tendency for centres to prefer the donor to give her eggs anonymously (donors have no relationship in law with any child resulting from treatment); but there is another side: both donor and recipient often long to know one another's identity, and the future child may in time want to know its genetic mother.

Knowledge all round is more subtle and complex than anonymity — but can often be handled well on behalf of all by the older recipient with her mature perspective. And there is a special association between donor, recipient and child. One woman provides half the chromosomes, the other not only brings the child up but the child develops inside her. The child will certainly be a very real part of both the elderly primigravida and of the donor.

JANE WARD

Jane Ward is a pseudonym. Anyone wishing to contact the writer to help her in her quest for a known egg donor may do so by writing to Box 7611, giving a telephone number on which they can be contacted.

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Help for asthma

ASTHMA sufferers aged between 13 and 16 are invited to a special conference to be held tomorrow by the National Asthma Campaign (NAC) at International Students House (next to Great Portland Street underground station) in central London. The NAC's new colour newsletter, *Blast!*, is also aimed at teenagers with letters from young sufferers and articles on celebrities who have not let asthma hold them back (Stephen Fry features in the first, and is distributed to all secondary schools in the United Kingdom).

Teenagers interested in attending the conference should telephone Helen McGovern at the NAC on 071-226 2260 to apply for a place. Lunch and refreshments will be provided free. The NAC also operates an Asthma Helpline from 1pm to 9pm on weekdays (telephone 0345 01 0203), which will deal with questions on any aspect of asthma and its treatment.

Have a heart

WALK OFF any Easter over-indulgences next month, when Bartholomew, the makers of maps and walk guides, teams with the British Heart Foundation to organise eight sponsored walks around the English and Scottish countryside for the benefit of the foundation.

All the walks will take place on Sunday May 10, and they range from two to four and a quarter miles long. All are promised to be "easy to complete".

Sponsorship forms and further information is available from bookshops or from Mandy Craig, Bartholomew, 12 Duncan Street, Edinburgh (031-667 9341), and there will be prizes of books to the highest fundraisers.

Classic export

THE CLASSIC British duffle coat has won a Queen's Award for Export 1992 for the company Gloverall, it was announced yesterday.

Last year the company's turnover was £8.5 million — of which overseas sales figures accounted for more than 80 per cent, proving, perhaps, that this quintessential British symbol is even more popular abroad than it is at home.

The latest Gloverall styles have added a new dimension to the duffle, with pastel colours and new fabrics including washed cotton and "duffle-down". Children's duffles start in a size suitable for one year olds in a bright spectrum of colours as well as the traditional school uniform

blues and greys (from £52) and adult prices start at £110.

There are duffe-derived coats and jackets suitable for City wear in the collection, which is stocked by most good department stores. For local stockists contact Gloverall Plc, The Stadium, Oaklands Road, London NW2 6DN (081-208 1100).

Wash 'n wear

A NEW brand of "cruelty-free" haircare products (pro-

the company claims. The range has been tested on humans rather than animals and carries stamps of approval from the Vegetarian Society.

Larger range

IN KEEPING with the movement to proclaim that "big is beautiful", Hennes — the Scandinavian company known for its clingy, sexy clothes for smaller sizes — is heavily promoting its larger range.

Called what looks like B B (for big and beautiful), it is apparently actually called B1B



All duffed up: the actor John Mills and his wife, Mary

duced without cruelty to animals) has been launched by Montagne Jeunesse, and is available at reasonable prices in supermarkets such as Asda, Co-op, Gateway, Safeway and Tesco, in addition to Harrods and leading chemists.

There is a Vitamin E Frequent Wash Shampoo, a Grapefruit and Aloe Shampoo, a Camomile & Jojoba Shampoo and a Henna & Kukui Nut Shampoo all with complementary conditioners and all at £1.99 per 250ml. Nettle & Mint Anti-Dandruff Shampoo and Seaweed & Minerals Conditioning Shampoo are more expensive at £2.29.

In all cases the cleansing agent is derived from coconut, rather than petrochemicals,

the i disappearing, except for the gap between the two Bs, and was designed by the comfortably upholstered Danish Jytte Meilvang.

The range consists of flowing jackets, loose silky trousers and soft tunic tops for moderate prices, mostly under £50, and it is available at Hennes shops.

Write on

POSSIBLY the first pen to be made of paper — recycled waste paper — has been launched by W.H. Smith. There is some plastic in it but it is recycled plastic and only 25 per cent of the amount most ballpoints carry. The pen costs £1.25.

VICTORIA MCKEE

Science under the microscope

New books by Bryan Appleyard and Mary Midgley have taken a critical look at the idea that science is a panacea not only for everyday ills but also for moral and spiritual problems. Next month *The Times*, in association with Dillons and Picador, is sponsoring a debate, chaired by Melvyn Bragg, on the motion "The Heartless Truths of Science Strip Man of His Spiritual Dignity". Ray Weldon will speak for it. Professor Lewis Wolpert will oppose it. For tickets, *Times* readers are invited to fill in the coupon below.

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هكذا من اجل

"I am at the boiling point! If I do not find some day the use of my tongue... I shall die of an intellectual regression, a woman's rights convulsion." — Elizabeth Cady Stanton, in a letter to Susan B. Anthony.

Oh, and then you'll be giving that speech at the Smithsonian on Tuesday on the status of American women," my publisher's publicist reminded me as she rattled off the list of "appearances" for the week. "What?" I choked out. "I thought that was at least another month away." But the speech was distant only in my wishful consciousness, which pushed all such events into a mythical future when I would no longer lunge for smelling salts at the mention of public speaking.

For the author of what was widely termed an "angry" and "forceful" book, I exhibit a timorous verbal demeanor that belies my barracuda bluffs. My fingers may belt out my views when I'm stationed before the computer, but stick a microphone in front of me and I'm a Victorian lady with the vapours. Like many female writers with strong convictions but weak stomachs for direct confrontation, I write so forcefully precisely because I speak so tentatively. One form of self-expression has over-compensated for the weakness of the other, like a blind person who develops a hypersensitive ear.

"Isn't it wonderful that so many people want to hear what you have to say about women's rights?" the publicist prodded. I grimaced. "About as wonderful as walking down the street with no clothes on." Yes, I wanted people to hear what I had to

say. Yes, I wanted to warn women of the backlash to our modest gains. But couldn't they just read what I wrote? Couldn't I just speak softly and carry a big book?

It has taken me a while to realise that my publicist is right. It's not the same — for my audience or for me. Public speech can be a horror for the shy person, but it can also be the ultimate act of liberation. For me, it became the moment where the public and the personal truly met.

For many years, I believed the imbalance between my incensed writing and my atrophied vocal cords suited me just fine. After a few abysmal auditions for school plays (my one role was Nana the dog in *Peter Pan* — not, needless to say, a speaking role) I retired my acting aspirations and retreated to the school newspaper, a forum where I could bluster at injustices large and small without public embarrassment.

My friend Barbara and I co-edited the high-school paper (titled, interestingly, *The Voice*), fearlessly castigating all soundbites from our closet-sized office. But we kept our eyes glued to the floor during class discussion.

Partly this was shyness, a genderless condition, but it was a condition reinforced by daily gendered reminders — we saw what happened to the girls who argued in class. The boys called them

Susan Faludi says it's time for women to stop being angry on paper and realise how much mightier is the voice than the pen

"bitches" and they sat home Saturday nights.

While both sexes fear public speaking (pollsters tell us it's the public's greatest fear, rivaling even death), women — particularly women — seem to be more afraid, and with good reason. We do have more at stake. Men risk a loss of face; women a loss of femininity. Men are chastened if they blunder at the podium; women face humiliation either way. If we come across as commanding, our womanhood is called into question. If we reveal emotion, we are too hormonally driven to be taken seriously.

I had my own taste of this double



standard while making the rounds of radio and television talk shows for my book tour. When I disputed a point with a man, male listeners would phone in to say they found my behaviour "offensive", or even "unattractive". And then there were my own internalised "feminine" voices: "don't interrupt, be agreeable, keep the volume down."

"We're going to take it again," a weary radio producer said, rewinding the tape for the fifth time. "Your words are angry, but it's not coming through in your voice."

In replacing lacerating speech with a literary scalpel, I had adopted a well-worn female strategy, used most famously by

Victorian female reformers protesting against slavery and women's lowly status. "I want to be doing something with the pen, since no other means of action in politics are in a woman's power," Harriet Martineau, the British journalist, wrote in 1832.

But while their literature makes compelling reading the suffrage movement didn't get under way until women took a public stand from the platform of the Seneca Falls Women's Rights convention. And while Betty Friedan's 1963 book, *The Feminine Mystique*, raised the consciousness of millions of women, the contemporary women's movement only began to affect social policy when Ms. Friedan and other feminists started addressing the public.

Public speech is a more powerful stimulus because it is more dangerous for the speaker. An almost physical act, it demands projecting one's voice, hurrying it against the public ear. Writing, on the other hand, occurs at one remove. The writer asserts herself from behind the veil of the printed page.

The evening of the Smithsonian speech finally arrived. I stood knock-kneed and green-gilled before 300 people. Was it too late to plead a severe case of laryngitis?

I cleared my throat as if to my shock, a hush fell over the room. People were listening, with an intensity that strangely

emboldened me. It was as if their attentive silence allowed me to make contact with my own muffled self. I began to speak. A stinging point induced a ripple of agreement. I told a joke and they laughed. My voice got surer, my delivery rising. A charge passed between me and the audience, uniting and igniting us both. That internal "boiling point" that Elizabeth Cady Stanton described was no longer under "intellectual repression." And its heat, I discovered, could set many kettles to whistling.

Afterward, it struck me that I hadn't really proved myself a feminist until now. Until you translate personal words on a page into public connections with other people, you aren't really part of a political movement. I hadn't declared my independence until I was willing to declare it out loud. I knew public speaking was important to reform public life, but I hadn't realised the transformative effect it could have on the speaker herself. Women need to be heard not just to change the world, but to change themselves.

I can't say that this epiphany has made me any less anxious when approaching the lectern, but it has made me more determined to speak in spite of the jitters and more hopeful that other women will do the same. Toward that end, I'd like to make a modest proposal for the next stage of the women's movement: A new method of consciousness-raising: feminist toastmasters.

Susan Faludi is the author of *Backlash: The Undiscovered War Against Women*, published by Chatto & Windus, £9.99.

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Emily Lau, democracy advocate: "We no longer happily accept an imposed choice of governor"

British — and undemocratic

For Emily Lau, the suggestion that Chris Patten is considering an offer of the governorship of Hong Kong is an example of the colony being used as "a convalescent home for shell-shocked victims of political warfare at Westminster."

Ms Lau, one of 60 Hong Kong legislative councillors and the leading advocate of democracy for the colony, agrees that being the governor of the UK's last major colony as British rule runs out is an unenviable task. Never before has Britain handed a territory to a communist state against the wishes of its people, who are dedicated capitalists. If Mr Patten, the chairman of the Conservative party and the former MP for Bath, should become the new governor, he will have to defend Hong Kong — the people and the financial centre — against British indifference, Chinese rapaciousness and increasing panic in the colony, Ms Lau says.

Of Hong Kong's population of 5.6 million, 98 per cent are Chinese. The governor has always been selected without consulting local people. But, Ms Lau says, "the people are increasingly assertive and politically active and are no longer happy to accept the benevolent dictatorship that used to prevail in the choice of governor."

She thinks the British have failed to understand how sensitive the choice of the last governor is for the residents. "Just before Christmas there were rumours that they might ask Lord David Wilson to retire. The Foreign Office said it was nonsense. A few weeks later he said he would resign."

The people were told that they would have to wait for the British elections before a decision could be made on a replacement. Ms Lau says: "Imagine the British being told they would have to do without a prime minister for six months pending the result of the American elections. Unthinkable."

Through the British media, the Hong Kong Chinese have learned that there are several possibilities. "David Owen is one suggestion but he seems to have supported all three parties," she says. "He is also a loser. The Chinese don't like losers." And then there is Mr Patten: "He seems to be highly regarded but he has also lost his seat. We always seem to get second-best, has-beens or never-wases."

Ms Lau does not think the governorship should be seen as a reward. "They say it is a plum job: you get twice the pay of a prime minister, £152,000, making you Britain's highest-earning civil servant. You get a Daimler with

A Hong Kong councillor says the colony should be allowed to elect its own governor

crowns in place of numberplates, a yacht and a life pension. But you also get five million worried Hong Kong Chinese."

The councillors have no influence over who will be next governor. But when Ms Lau came to London in February and visited the Foreign Office she says they did ask her whom she would like. "When I said somebody local, they said it was out of the question." The problem is that China views a local governor as a dangerous encouragement to Cantonese dissidents and Hong Kong nationalism.

Ms Lau believes the people of Hong Kong have not done enough to further their own cause. Most

her father died when she was four and her mother went to work as a live-in domestic servant in Hong Kong. She ended up sharing three rooms with 30 relatives who have recently fled China. "We were taught absolutely nothing about politics at school," she says. "We didn't know what communism and democracy meant."

Ms Lau's conversion came when she went to the United States to study broadcast journalism. "I was hit by the Watergate crisis and that was the first time that I became politicised and realised that journalism is about reporting the hopes and fears of a community, not just the government line."

At the *South China Morning Post* and then TVB, the Hong Kong television station, she worked as a reporter and producer of current affairs. She came to Britain in 1981, eventually becoming an assistant producer in the BBC.

Ms Lau has a British passport from her first marriage to a British journalist but when the Sino-British joint declaration was concluded in 1984, she went home. "Hong Kong is not a country. The people in Hong Kong are not proud of saying 'I am a Hong Kong person'. There is no proper word for it: 'Hong Konger' sounds grotesque but Hong Kong is my only real home," she says. "I had to be there when it was in trouble."

When Margaret Thatcher visited Hong Kong, Ms Lau was among the first journalists to question her. "Prime minister, two years ago you signed an agreement with China to deliver five million people into the hands of a communist dictatorship," she said. "Is that morally defensible? Or is it true that in international politics the highest form of morality is one's own national interest?"

Ms Thatcher, she says, replied that Britain had done its best.

Now 40, Ms Lau gave up 20 years of journalism to stand last year in the first democratic elections to the legislative council, which makes laws and approves government expenditure but has no political say in Hong Kong's future. Of its 60 members, only 18 are directly elected; 17 are appointed by the government and 21 are members because of their positions.

Ms Lau says: "I think we should have had a referendum [about what should happen in 1997]. I have no idea what the results would have been but at least then we would have had what the majority wanted. Nobody wants what we have now."

Like many, Ms Lau's family lost everything in China. Her half-brother was killed by communists.

ALICE THOMSON

Although women may play games, they are not given a sporting chance on television

Blowing the whistle on coverage

This Saturday, 22 players will stream on to the pitch at Wembley for the women's FA Cup final. There will be no live coverage on radio or television, but fans of Doncaster Belles and Red Star Southampton will be able to watch extended highlights of the game on Channel 4 the next day.

Channel 4 was alone in championing women's volleyball and has now followed this up with coverage of football.

This year, British broadcasters will spend more than £80 million on sport. "The busiest year yet," according to Jonathan Martin, the head of sport at the BBC. Television sport is big business, but women's sport hardly comes into the frame, and never with the consistency given to men's sport.

Last month, any viewers looking for sportswomen would have found them in the World Figure Skating Championships on BBC 1. But there was no exclusively female event, whereas 87 per cent of the coverage was men only.

The Women's Sports Foundation point out that television is not the sole offender. "Women's magazines give lousy coverage, too: too little sport they feature tends to be equated with diet and fitness, not achievement and success," says Eileen Langley, the foundation's deputy chair. But television influences both male and female attitudes: it is the big money spender, and a natural focus for complaint.

"It comes down to the medium's own arrogance," says Margaret Talbot, a Carnegie professor at Leeds Polytechnic, whose recent research concentrated on women's sports. "They say we know what people want, and it's not women's sport. But until there is the sustained coverage, and in quantity and quality, you can't tell."

The Sports Council's recent consultative document, *Women And Sport*, says: "The message clearly given by national newspapers and television is that Sport is for men, and women play little part in the British sporting scene."

Professor Talbot believes the message is damaging. "Apparently, girls have so few visible female role-models in sport, and hardly any from team games, that it is easy for them to infer that grown women and sport don't mix, and be discouraged from continuing with sport at all," she says. "It's not just the quantity of the coverage, it's the quality."

Liz McColgan, the women's 10,000 metres world champion, points out that television coverage does not just mean glory for individual athletes and the games they play. "For anyone in sport, television appearances increase the chance of getting sponsorship. And sports themselves live on public awareness. Not just attracting spectators, but new participants, new talent — which in the end, is what keeps the sport going."

There have been honourable exceptions. Channel 4 showed what could be done with its series on women's volleyball and football; the magazine programme *Good Sport*, had a high proportion of women on screen. But coverage in mainstream sports programmes remains sporadic.

"I do think it's the bias of male sports editors," says Anita White, the development officer at the Sports Council. "I first became aware of it when I was captain of England hockey in 1975. We won the World Cup — the BBC gave it a few seconds on the news. I think the programmes themselves miss out on exciting sports and it's also patently unfair."

"It's not always up to sports editors," says Adrian Metcalfe, who gave volleyball its break while a commissioning editor at Channel 4. Now the director of programmes at Tyne Tees, he attributes a semi-editorial influence to advertisers. "They want a male audience to which they can sell men's products; traditional sports programming gives them that audience. They can get women at other times of day."

"Good sports coverage is expensive: I spent around £30,000 an hour on volleyball [on production costs]. No editor will invest that sort of money unless the organisers of the sport offer a good product and

know what television needs. Five years ago, the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) showed that it had its act together, by producing a package of exciting players, properly scheduled tournaments and good crowds. It had a clear sports infrastructure, and it got results."

The WTA had a major advantage since women's tennis already had a place in international television schedules.

To ensure volleyball had television appeal, Mr Metcalfe put the teams into semi-aerobics gear and bussed spectators into the Albert Hall. He is unapologetic: "A lot of sport is about looking good, male or female, and it helped people make the transition to enjoying

competitive sport and the sport itself."

Women's sport organisers have also begun to package their sport, and not just for television.

At the All England Women's Lacrosse Association, the chief executive, Jacqueline Lunn, says they have concentrated more on extending the game from its traditional public school base, and that the results are showing. "There's a practical reason too: unlike the men's game, we have no boundaries on the pitch, which makes it hard to televise. It's something the Women's International Federation has to consider," she says.

Earlier this year, Mr Martin of the BBC signalled some change. "We have to attract a lot more women to the screen to justify the amount of money and time we are spending on sport," he announced at a press launch. "It's a matter of policy rather than accident that we have two women presenters [Helen Rollason and Anna Walker] — and we are looking for more."

Ms Rollason, the regular presenter of *Sport on Friday*, is a former PE teacher with impeccable television credentials in production as well as front of camera. She warns that, while pro-women's sports, she is a television animal. "This is what upsets me. Only now are most women in sport — organisers and individuals — realising what TV needs. For instance, last November, we carried the netball international. It was very well done, very well organised. But now it's up to the governing body to capitalise on the enthusiasm that was generated and come forward with their suggestions, not just wait for the BBC."

JAY ANDREWS

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Did you see? Hope Powell and Debbie Bampton of Millwall Lionesses in the 1991 FA Cup final

Council not liable for sex abuse

It was difficult to see that relationship of proximity in respect of the pupil's physical safety and welfare ever existed by reason of the school authorities' statutory

It had to be asked whether it could be right as a matter of policy to impose a substantial further protective duty and function not contemplated by the statutory scheme.

No complaint was made of the process of assessment of the plaintiffs' educational needs or the provision of the school in the first place.

Investigation and inspection were plainly matters for the secretary of state and formed no part of the local authority's duties.

Solicitors: Blackman & Blackman, Harrow; Seymours Major & Co. Harrow; Mr Hugh Prag, Harrow.

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Counsel's duty in returning briefs

Solicitors: Robert Gore & Co for
Howes Percival. Northampton:
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not apt judges

His Lordship could well see the

advantage of a renewed application being made to the Court of Appeal in which the same constitution had recently been dealing. It was quite different when the application was made months after the Court of Appeal had last dealt with the matter on grounds not then considered and upon the contrary Court of Appeal

The correct procedure would have been to make a fresh application for leave for judicial review.

The Times Law Report will resume publication after the beginning of the new law term on April 28.

Medical examination term is valid

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